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Daily Report

Latin America

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Daily Report
Latin America

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Reportage on Ibero-American Summit in Bariloche

UN, OAS, UNESCO Heads Speak

PY1710050795 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1906 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Report by special TELAM correspondents in San Carlos de Bariloche]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, 16 Oct (TELAM) — Representatives from the United Nations, the OAS, and UNESCO were loud in their praises of the fact that education had been chosen as the central topic of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government.

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali underscored the significance of the debate on education, as it promotes "solidarity, understanding, and friendship among nations," he said.

Butrus-Ghali, who is participating in the summit meeting as special guest, expressed his satisfaction at "seeing how the democratization process initiated the world over at the end of the Cold War is so palpable at this forum."

The UN secretary general added that "all the necessary elements to achieve progress are present" in Bariloche, inspired by "the great Latin American democratic revolutions."

Butrus-Ghali went on to say that in Ibero-America "one finds the heritage, the inspiration, the talent, and the spirit of enterprise to achieve progress through a commitment to democratization."

Butrus-Ghali stated that the future of Ibero-American countries is "boundless."

OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria, for his part, deemed that it was "regrettable" that "50 percent" of all Ibero-Americans are illiterate.

Gaviria illustrated the seriousness of the situation by pointing out that the countries of the region "earmark one-third of the education budget for covering expenditures on schoolchildren who repeat a grade."

The OAS secretary general deplored the "poor training" of those educators who take up teaching "because they are unable to find anything else to do." He recalled that "those teachers who have been properly trained give up their career due to the lack of prestige of their profession and to the poor salaries they receive."

Gaviria stressed: "We will have to see how we can improve teachers' educational standards, the fact that teachers do all the talking without any interaction with the students, the lack of discussion at schools, the fact that curricula bear no relevance to the situation prevalent in the region."

The OAS secretary general called upon Ibero-American governments to increase the number of hours spent at school "from the average 800 in the region to at least 1,200."

UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor Zaragoza from Spain recognized with appreciation the fact that education and scientific research had been chosen as the main issues of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit.

Addressing the Ibero-American heads of state and government, Mayor Zaragoza asserted that "education is the foundation of freedom."

"A nation needs education so that, besides being the synthesis of its past, it can project itself toward the future ," he added.

The UNESCO director general stated that only through education can one provide the tools to have access to veritable citizenship and manage to have "citizens [words indistinct]."

Colombia's Samper Speaks at Opening

PA1610152595 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1336 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Report by Guillermo Rodriguez from San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina; from the "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast — live relay]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Rodriguez] It is 23 minutes to 1600 in this country. Temperature is chilly and President Samper is addressing summit participants. He is the only foreign president to speak at the summit inauguration.

[Samper, broadcast in progress] ....without representation. The present times call for the nonexistence of states without participation, namely without democracy. Education for participation at all levels is the only thing that may change the concept in many of our countries about governments that turn their backs on their constituents. The new interlocutor of public interest in our countries is society as a whole, through those entities of participation which are the nongovernmental organizations.

[Rodriguez, interrupting] Caracol listeners, President Samper will shortly —we are going to broadcast that part — touch on the delicate issue of drug trafficking, which is included in the final document that will be issued tomorrow. We have already made this document public. It will call to the attention of both drug-producing and drug-consuming countries their shared responsibility in handling this problem. This document stresses that this is not an individual but a collective

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problem, adding all nations must face it jointly. At this time, President Samper is addressing summit participants at the main room of Llao Llao Hotel in the city of Bariloche, Argentina, 1,700 km southeast of Buenos Aires. Here is the part about drug trafficking:

[Samper, broadcast in progress] ....it will only be corrected through a decisive action of the international community to fight the drug scourge. Those who think this is an exclusive responsibility of drug-producing or drug-shipping countries are wrong. Only a combined action at the supply and demand level will allow us to effectively wage a struggle against this threat, which is, I repeat, a threat against the entire international community. The annual $500 billion that the drug market represents may reach the stronger economies and the most perfected democracies.

We, Colombians, have demonstrated to the world for several years that we are not killers but victims of the drug problem, that the costs we have paid to eradicate drugs — in terms of lives and money — give us moral authority to demand vehemently that a rapid multilateral action be undertaken to fight drugs at all levels: agriculture production, industrial processing, financing, consumption, and financial recycling of its profits.

[Rodriguez, interrupting] This is the most important part of President Samper's speech here, upon inaugurating this Ibero-American Summit, which for two days will reflect the concerns and expectations of these heads of state and government, 18 in total — the presidents of Ecuador, Venezuela, and Portugal failed to attend. This summit will produce a document which we hope will serve to confront the end of this and the beginning of the next century for 500 million people from Ibero-America and Portugal.

Cuba's Castro Addresses Opening

PA1610204295 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1859 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, Argentina, 16 Oct (PL) — Cuban President Fidel Castro today stated to the Fifth Ibero-American Summit: "before thinking about our ideological differences, I prefer to believe we will unite to save our America from hunger, poverty, ignorance, and diseases."

The following is the text of the speech he delivered to the plenary session of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit:

Mr. President of the Argentine Republic

Majesty,

Excellencies:

Some of us have traveled a lot. Time is short, but nothing pleases us more than seeing us gathered once again. We observe absences, they grieve us. We see new faces, they gladden us. Sitting here at a table, we Ibero-Americans feel something that cannot be ignored or disregarded. We do not all think alike nor do we all struggle in equal conditions, but we all feel equal respect for the others.

Times change. Sometimes some of us have more problems and others have less. But no one can be happy when those who hold different opinions face difficulties. We all want to be right, but true reason lies in what identifies and unites us.

I am not going to cite figures, figures sometimes bore us. Regarding education, I will only mention that in Cuba the number of professors and teachers is the highest per capita among all the countries of the world. What we must ask ourselves is whether each of us is doing everything he can for his people. History will be a better judge than we will be. Today we all know that nothing is useful if it does not bring utmost well-being to each of our compatriots. Today each of us is more aware of social problems. Even the IMF and the World Bank speak of those problems and the need to resolve them. Is it perhaps the spirit of socialism?

We do not want anyone to lose sleep. Before thinking about our ideological differences, I prefer to believe that we will unite to save our America from hunger, poverty, ignorance, and disease. We must all understand that there must be an end to the horrible situation in which some do not know what to throw away in garbage dumps and others do not know what to pick up to survive.

The difficulties are enormous, but here in Bariloche I am deeply impressed by the memory of San Martin at the summit of the Andes.

Let us follow the example of our predecessors. Let us do what Bolivar, San Martin, Artigas, O'Higgins, Sucre, Juarez, Morazan and Marti would have done in similar circumstances, so that our America will hold a dignified place in a world in which we all have a right to live.

Castro Speaks Before Summit Plenum

PA1610200095 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1642 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, Argentina [no date as received] (PL) — Cuban President Fidel Castro today urged all Latin American presidents to follow the example of the forefathers to ensure that "our America occupies a dignified position in a world where everyone has a right to live."

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We all claim to be right, but what is truly right are the things that identify and unite us, he said in a brief speech before the plenum of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit, which started here today with the presence of 18 heads of state of Latin America, Spain, and Portugal.

In reference to the meeting's main topic, education, and without citing any figures, Castro pointed out that Cuba has the highest number of teachers and professors per capita in the world.

He added that what we should ask ourselves is whether each person is doing the most he can for his people. History will be a better judge than ourselves.

Today we know that nothing matters if we fail to maximize the welfare of each and every compatriot," Castro noted.

Each person is now more aware of social problems and even the IMF and the World Bank are discussing such issues and the need to solve them.

Before thinking about our ideological differences, Castro added, "I prefer to think that we will join efforts to save our America from hunger, poverty, ignorance, and disease."

In this way, we will all understand that the horrible situation in which some do not know what to throw in the garbage can and others do not know what to pick up to survive should not continue.

There are enormous difficulties, Castro said, but here in Bariloche "I have been more profoundly impressed by the memory of San Martin's journey along the Andes summit."

He finally urged the presidents to emulate "our predecessors. Let us do what Bolivar, San Martin, Artigas, O'Higgins, Sucre, Juarez, Morazan, and Marti would have done under equal circumstances to ensure that our America occupies a dignified place in a world in which everyone has a right to live."

Castro Urges Unity Beyond Differences

PY1610175495 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1340 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, 16 Oct (EFE) — Cuban President Fidel Castro today said that "the factors that identify us and unite us," beyond ideological discrepancies, are the reason for Ibero-American summits.

In a very short speech at the opening session of the fifth Ibero-American Summit, Castro said about his country that "no one can be happy if those who disagree must face difficulties."

The speech by Castro — he was one of the last leaders to take the floor — was followed in full silence by hundreds of journalists who from the press room monitored the session through a closed-circuit television network.

Dressed in a dark blue suit, Castro said that now there is more awareness of social problems — adding that even the IMF and the World Bank recognize this.

"Is it perhaps the ghost of Socialism?" he wondered.

Castro said: "I do not want to cause concern, but beyond ideological differences, we must save America from starvation, poverty, ignorance, and disease."

In this summit, which is devoted to education as the driving force of development, Castro emphasized that Cuba has the world's top "per capita" index of professors and teachers. He then wondered if "everyone is doing everything he can for his people."

"History will pass judgment," the Cuban leader said.

He concluded by urging other presidents to follow the example of Ibero-American heroes like Bolivar, San Martin, Morazan, O'Higgins and Sucre, so that "America may have a more decent position in a world in which everyone has the right to live."

Compared with his speeches at previous summits, the speech by Castro was much more moderate, and avoided attacks on the United States or references to the economic embargo on his country.

Castro is one of the five presidents who have attended all the summits, along with King Juan Carlos, Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez, Argentine President Carlos Menem, and Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro.

Castro Comments on Embargo, U.S. Ties

PY1610181695 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1456 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, 16 Oct (NA) — Cuban Commander Fidel Castro today described as a "super blockade" the extensive embargo that the United States has maintained against Cuba for 35 years. He also expressed his hope that his colleagues at the Ibero-American summit "can do something" to lessen its effect.

Castro held an impromptu and disorderly dialogue at dawn today with a group of journalists accredited to the Ibero-American conference at the Panamericano Hotel where he is staying.

Visibly affected by a sore throat, Castro welcomed questions and praises from journalists, one of whom

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did not hesitate to describe him as a "phenomenon." To this, Fidel Castro responded: "I am only a human being. An admirer of Argentina."

Castro admitted that the Ibero-American summit cannot compel the United States to lift the blockade. He said: "I wish it could and I am certain that if it could, it would."

Furthermore, he said at 0240 that he still had no confirmation about his much-awaited personal meeting with President Carlos Menem which will reportedly be held this afternoon.

However, he praised the "attention" that President Menem showered on him last night at the inaugural dinner during which, through a draw, Castro was seated to the right of the Argentine president. Castro said: "He treated me very well. He seated me next to him and he was very kind."

On this occasion instead of wearing his classic green military uniform, Castro wore a black suit and a thick scarf to protect himself from the cold.

Castro then referred to the "new track" that the opening policy of Bill Clinton's administration would mean for Cuba, saying: "I don't think it is a new track. More than anything I believe it is a derailed track." He also complained about a "fundamentalist group" in the U.S. Congress that promotes a tightening of the U.S. blockade.

Fidel Castro was cautious when responding whether the final declaration will explicitly condemn the U.S. blockade. He said: "I do not know yet. I have not read the papers yet but surely we will talk and then we will see what is the final result."

He asserted that the Cuban revolution will continue "with or without the blockade." He also praised "the reforms and opening" to foreign trade that have been implemented in Cuba.

Toward the end of the disorderly dialogue, and when asked when he will cease to be the head of the Cuban Government, Castro took everyone by surprise by saying: "Until Jesus Christ says enough."

When a journalist said: "Commander, are you speaking about Jesus Christ?," he responded: "Of course, my mother used to talk to me about Jesus. He was the first communist; He gave out bread and fish; and He converted water into wine —which is what we have been doing." He concluded without being able to avoid the applause of some bystanders at the Panamericano Hotel lobby.

Castro Urges Unity To Overcome Problems

PY1710011895 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Report by TELAM special correspondents]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, 16 Oct (TELAM) — Cuban President Fidel Castro called upon Latin American countries to unite to overcome the scourges of hunger, poverty, illiteracy, and disease.

Having pointed out that "times change," Castro stated that "I would like to believe that we will leave aside the ideological differences that have caused us to become estranged and unite to save our Americas from the many difficulties confronting us."

The Cuban leader delivered a brief speech today during the first round of deliberations by the heads of state and government at the Llao-Llao Hotel within the framework of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit.

Castro declared that "nowadays, even the IMF and the World Bank are socially conscious."

"Perhaps we do not share the same ideas or struggle under the same conditions, but all of us have the greatest respect for the other. Times change and sometimes some of us are burdened with many problems, while others have an easier time, but none of us can feel happy when those who disagree with us are facing difficulties," he noted.

The Cuban leader argued that "we all want to be in the right, but true reason is to be found in that which identifies us."

Commenting on education in Cuba, Castro said that the numbers of professors and teachers relative to students and pupils in his country "are the highest in the world."

The Cuban head of state went on to say that "what we ought to wonder is whether each of us is doing absolutely everything one can for one's people. History will be a better judge than ourselves, and we are well aware that all our efforts are totally worthless if they do not contribute to the well-being of each of our fellow countrymen. We are also aware of the fact that people are more sensitized to social problems nowadays."

At another point in his address, Castro explained that "we do not want anybody to lose sleep over others' problems, but I would like to believe that we will leave aside the ideological differences that cause us to become estranged and unite to free our Americas from hunger, poverty, illiteracy, and disease."

"It is absolutely necessary that we come to understand the appalling situation of those who do not know what

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to throw in the garbage and of others who do not know what to forage in order to survive. This is an intolerable situation," he underscored.

Castro said that "here in Bariloche, I am awed by the thought of General Jose de San Martin, crossing the snow-capped Andes mountain range." He urged his colleagues to "follow in the footsteps of those who preceded us."

In concluding, Castro said: Let us do what Bolivar, San Martin, Artigas, O'Higgnins, Sucre, Juarez, Morazan, and Marti would have done if confronted with the same circumstances we are facing at present, so that our Americas may find a place in the sun and we may have the right to live with dignity."

Castro Open To Ending 'Disputes' With U.S.

PY1710024595 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0020 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, Argentina, 16 Oct (EFE) — Cuban President Fidel Castro stated today that he will not turn his back on any proposal of mediation to put an end to his disputes with the United States, and much less so if the proposal comes from Latin America.

"It would be impossible for me to turn my back on a selfless and noble effort on the part of any person, any institution, and it would be even less justifiable if I were to turn my back on the effort of Latin America to try and improve the relations between everyone," Castro said.

After a meeting with his Brazilian colleague, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the Cuban president stressed that he has noted that there has been a total reversal of Ibero-America's position toward Cuba and that he had proven this in Bariloche, where the Fifth Ibero-American Summit is being held, and during his recent trip to Uruguay.

According to Castro, "this is a culminating moment." He stressed that his visit to Montevideo was "stimulating, and the attitude of the Uruguayan people was incredible," as he recalled that 200,000 persons met in a plaza to support him.

"If you ask me why, then I suppose it was mainly because we have known how to struggle with firmness and because we have respected our principles, and the people admire that," Castro stressed in remarks to foreign journalists in the Tunquelen Hotel in Bariloche.

He stressed that Cuba "has given an example of courage, and it has rewritten the history of David and Goliath, only Goliath is still alive and even more powerful."

Asked why he did not explicitly refer to the U.S. embargo in his address to the opening session of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit, he said ironically that "I have already forgotten all about that."

Moreover, he stated that he had not referred to the matter "because did not have enough time," and that he could not dedicate his address to his policy regarding the United States because he had to dedicate it to matters that are of interest for the Ibero-American countries.

Regarding an alleged change of attitude on the part of the United States in favor of Cuba, he said that if this were true, it would be a piece of news that would make him very happy, and that he would consider it as a positive sign.

This notwithstanding, he made it clear that "that depends on the [word indistinct] of forces because there is also an opposition, an opposition by the extreme rightist groups that have a lot of pull in Congress, and they are trying to block everything."

Regarding his hypothetical return to the OAS, he recalled with skepticism that "there are marriages that result in divorce and afterward an agreement is reached and the couple are married once again," although that "depends on the wife's decision."

He insisted that Cuba has made many changes and that it will not take a step backward; still less will it adhere to the capitalist system.

Castro stressed that Cuba's greatest exploit was that of having resisted the U.S. onslaught under current conditions, in other words, after "the disintegration" of the socialist bloc and of socialism in the USSR.

"Cuba will enter the history of this hemisphere," he stressed.

In view of the possibility that Cuba will become a part of economic and trade integration process such as the Common Market of the South, for example, he said that "we will join where they are willing to admit us."

He indicated that in his bilateral meetings in Bariloche, he had spoken with his colleagues in a pleasant way, with a lot of affection toward them, but that he had not come here to ask for anything.

"I like to analyze, to talk and exchange opinions. It is more than asking," he insisted.

Castro: Christ 'First Communist'

PA1710034095 Havana Tele Rebelde Television in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Oct 95

[From the "NTV Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We now present details of what happened in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, on the first day of the Ibero-American Summit.

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This Sunday, hundreds of people marched through the streets to demonstrate their solidarity with Cuba and their opposition to the U.S. embargo. The demonstrators arrived from places as far away as Buenos Aires, La Pampa, and Mendoza, more than 1,000 km away from where the Ibero-American presidential summit is being held.

[Begin recording] [Fidel Castro] [Passage indistinct] If she could, I think she would.

[Reporter] Did you (?dine) with U.S. businessmen who visited Cuba recently?

[Castro] Yes.

[Reporter] Did you and they reach an agreement? Did they promise you anything?

[Castro] [Words indistinct] agreement those who live there. It was a courtesy, friendly, probing visit. A very good one. Undoubtedly, they are very capable people.

[Reporter] Tell us about the Helms-Burton bill, which is now being debated in the Senate.

[Castro] I think you are better informed than I, but I think it will be debated on Tuesday or Wednesday. It is very important.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] your meeting behind closed doors with President Menem?

[Castro] We did not meet behind closed doors this time. But he was very nice to me, seated me beside himself, and was very kind to me.

[Reporter] Commander, we want to [words indistinct] with all Argentine idols, Maradona and everyone else? [Words indistinct]

[Castro] [Words indistinct]

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Clinton administration after the famous Track Two?

[Castro] Well, this is a derailed track, so to speak. We are not willing to travel along that track because we could be derailed.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] relations with the Clinton administration?

[Castro] Not exactly. I think the main role is now played by the famous bill now being discussed by the group of fundamentalists in Congress.

[Reporter] Commander, [words indistinct] final document [words indistinct]?

[Castro] Yes, those papers have not yet been considered. The people are talking.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] Much more than an embargo, it is a superblockade.

[Reporter] Commander, what will you present at the summit?

[Castro] I have not much to propose.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Commander, tell us something.

[Castro] Recently I have learned to speak well but briefly.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] Maybe, but we think otherwise. It is the continuation, with or without the embargo.

[Reporter] Are there reforms in Cuba's economy, Commander?

[Castro] I would say there are several.

[Reporter] Which are they?

[Castro] [Words indistinct] There is an opening both to withstand the present situation and inspect our efficiency.

[Reporter] How about free trade?

[Castro] There is considerable free trade with other countries, and some free trade inside the country.

[Reporter] How about the next meeting [words indistinct]?

[Castro] [Words indistinct] that side and this side, especially those who are on the other side and who are economic, nonpolitical immigrants, who are not part of the rank and file.

[Reporter] One last question. [Words indistinct] democracy?

[Castro] It is a show, a big show.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Are you planning a revolution next year? Could you give us some advance? [laughter]

[Castro] Nowhere.

[Reporter] And what about today's dream, Commander?

[Castro] Today's dream? The same when [words indistinct]. The proof that this is a dream is that we have not yet attained all of the objectives.

[Reporter] How many more years of revolution can we expect?

[Castro] The world is about to experience a revolution.

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[Reporter] How much longer for Fidel Castro?

[Castro] Only Jesus Christ knows that. [Words indistinct]

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] summit Fidel, Jesus Christ, and Maradona?

[Castro] I have always admired Christ because Christ was the first communist. He multiplied the loaves and the fish and distributed them among all the people, which is what we want to do. And he turned the water into wine, also. [end recording]

Castro Meets With Cardoso

PY1710031795 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 0109 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Report by AE special correspondent Tania Monteiro]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, 16 Oct (AE) — After meeting with Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Cuban President Fidel Castro stated today that Cuba "will always be socialist," but admitted that economic opening is "necessary" to improve his regime. Castro, who is attending the Ibero-American summit in Bariloche, said that Cuba's "greatest feat" is that of "having resisted" the U.S. trade embargo imposed on it since the early 1960's. He stated that under the adverse conditions provoked by the collapse of the socialist countries, Cuba "has written a glorious page in the history of this millennium." Castro discussed with President Cardoso the Cuban desire to join Mercosur [Common Market of the South].

Asked by reporters about the possibility of Cuba joining Mercosur, Castro said: "Cuba will join any organization that would admit it. I have noticed a major change in the Latin American view about Cuba during this Ibero-American summit." Asked whether Cuba could abandon socialism and restore capitalism, Castro said: "We are not thinking about going back to capitalism. We will continue to be a socialist country, although with economic opening and with the necessary changes. We will do this not only because we are compelled by circumstances, but also because we want to improve our socialism. Yet, we will always be socialists."

Castro noted that the recent changes in the Cuban economy have been "the most profound ones" since the advent of the socialist revolution. He added: "We do not want to turn back." Asked by a reporter when direct elections will be held in Cuba, Castro answered: "You need to become better informed, because we always have direct elections in Cuba." He was thus referring to the proportional elections that are usually held in Cuba.

Castro and the other Latin American presidents had lunch at the Tunquelen Hotel, 25 km from downtown Bariloche. After lunch, Castro rented a room at the hotel to stay there until the time of his meeting with Cardoso, which was set for 1830. Castro is staying at another hotel in Bariloche.

Cardoso met with other Latin American leaders in the afternoon. After meeting with Castro, Cardoso met with Chilean President Eduardo Frei, with whom he discussed Chile's entry into Mercosur. Later, Cardoso attended a meeting of EU and Mercosur representatives designed to discuss trade between the two economic blocs. At this meeting it was decided that a meeting initially scheduled for 15 December in Spain will be moved up to 11 December because, on 15 December, Cardoso will be visiting China.

According to Brazilian diplomats, the EU and Mercosur representatives agreed on noting that Chile will be able to take part in trade between the two blocs if it joins Mercosur. Cardoso then met with Colombian President Ernesto Samper, with whom he discussed the implementation of joint environmental projects in the Amazon region. Samper then met again with Cardoso during a meeting of coffee producing countries, which was attended by the presidents of Ecuador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Honduras. Attending as observers were the presidents of Guatemala and Mexico. It has been agreed that no coffee producing country will take part in, or support, speculative operations on the coffee market.

According to Itamaraty officials, the coffee issue was included on the agenda because Brazil has been accused of exporting coffee in amounts that exceeded the ceiling set in an agreement of producing countries. President Cardoso stated that Brazil will not surpass its export quota of nearly 3 million bags of coffee.

Later, Cardoso met for an hour with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, with whom he exchanged ideas about their countries' economic situation. According to Brazilian diplomats, Cardoso devoted 20 minutes to outlining the problems faced by Brazilian banks, including state-owned banks, and cited the case of the Sao Paulo State Bank. Zedillo emphasized the significance of maintaining order in the banking system in order to avoid capital flight similar to that taking place in Venezuela. Zedillo also said that the Mexican banks had experienced serious liquidity problems, but that since the 1994 crisis, many Mexican banks have been bought by foreign banks, which has resulted in a large inflow of foreign capital into Mexico, and which has rendered the system more feasible. Cardoso expressed his desire to strengthen ties with Mexico. He was invited by Zedillo

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to visit Mexico. Initially, Cardoso would visit Mexico during the second half of 1996.

Cardoso also met with Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro, with whom he discussed formulas for Nicaragua to pay its $100 million debt to Brazil. Cardoso said he will make every effort to work out a "technical, political" solution that would enable Nicaragua to pay its debt.

Castro Meets With Wasmosy

PY1710030495 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 16 Oct 95 p 2

[Article by special NOTICIAS correspondent Fany Ruiz Diaz in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Juan Carlos Wasmosy held a private meeting with his Cuban counterpart Fidel Castro on 15 October. The meeting, which was arranged at Castro's initiative, was held at the suite in which Wasmosy is staying at the Panamericano Hotel.

At 1700 [2000 GMT], the Cuban head of state entered the room of his Paraguayan counterpart, with whom he held talks for an hour.

Following the meeting, it was reported that they discussed agricultural issues and that Castro had reiterated his interest in advising Paraguay in those fields in which Cuba has developed state-of-the-art technology, such as the growing of sugar cane.

Moreover, the Cuban president proposed cultural, educational, and scientific exchanges with Paraguay.

Both heads of state also discussed the embargo on trade with Cuba imposed by the United States. With regard to this issue, Paraguay had recently changed its position, as it joined most of the Latin American countries in demanding the lifting of the embargo on the Caribbean island. Wasmosy confirmed after the meeting his decision to endorse a declaration condemning that U.S. measure.

Wasmosy subsequently told Paraguayan reporters that "the blockade is unfair. One has to meet the needs of the people. When the people are satisfied, they strive for their freedom, the ability to exercise their political rights, and integration with the world."

Castro invited Wasmosy to make a state visit to Cuba. The Paraguayan head of state accepted it in principle, although he made it clear that it will not be possible for him to make such a visit this year.

In the course of their meeting, the Cuban leader pointed out that he knew quite a lot about Paraguay, and particularly about its history.

Commenting on the meeting, Wasmosy said that he had told Castro that although he respected the principle of the self-determination of peoples, he deemed that a political opening in Cuba was necessary.

He further stated that he had urged the Cuban president to become the catalyst of change in his country.

In the evening, all the participants in the Fifth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government attended a classical music concert performance by the Camerata Bariloche offered by Argentine President Carlos Menem in honor of his guests at the conservatory of the Llao-Llao Hotel, where the summit meeting is taking place.

A television broadcast showed Fidel Castro dressed in an impeccable blue suit having an amiable conversation with Wasmosy during the interval.

This was quite surprising, since both heads of state had held a lengthy meeting just a few hours before.

Chile Supports Lifting of U.S. Embargo

PY1610221195 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chile reasserted its support for the lifting of the embargo on Cuba. This will be one of the main issues to be broached at the Fifth Ibero-American Summit being held in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina.

[Begin recording] [Miguel Oyarzo] [passage omitted] There is great expectation with regard to how the summit will address the Cuba issue and the lifting of the U.S. embargo. [passage omitted]

On this issue, Chilean Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza said that Chile is clearly in favor of lifting the embargo.

[Insulza] We have repeatedly stated that we favor the return of democracy and the end of the embargo. Moreover, we believe that one issue should not be conditioned upon the other.

[Oyarzo] A series of bilateral meetings are held within the framework of these international meetings. It is within this framework that Chilean President Eduardo Frei met with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. During this meeting, they discussed the possibility of Chile eventually joining the EU.

[Frei] For us this constitutes a priority issue because it is an important factor of our foreign trade policy, therefore, we will continue working to try to achieve these agreements with the EU.

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[Oyarzo] The presidents and heads of state attending this summit are scheduled to hold their first working meeting on 16 October. At that time, they will discuss issues to be included in the final declaration, such as Cuba and the question of nuclear tests, which Chile wants the final declaration [end recording]

'Bariloche Declaration' To Condemn Embargo

PY1710035195 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2318 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] San Carlos de Bariloche, 16 Oct (NA) — The Bariloche Declaration, which will be issued tomorrow as the culmination of two days of deliberations at the Fifth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, will include a strong condemnation — albeit implicit — of the long-standing embargo on trade with Cuba enforced by the United States.

Without mentioning the U.S. Government even a single time, the final declaration will state, in point four, that the Ibero-American countries condemn "the maintenance of the embargo" on the grounds that it has a "detrimental effect on the people on which it is applied; it is injurious to sovereignty; and it violates international law, UN resolutions and the WTO charter."

According to what was announced by a source close to the Argentine delegation, all the Ibero-American heads of state and government "have voiced concern about and deplored" the trade embargo that Cuba has been enduring since 1962.

The same source acknowledged that this issue — one of the most important matters in the final declaration, which until this evening comprised 41 points — was proposed by Cuba itself during the preliminary meetings leading to the summit.

The Bariloche Declaration will open with an appeal for respect for democracy, human rights, and fundamental freedoms. This point was proposed by Argentina, but, like the demand for a lifting of the embargo, it does not mention Cuba directly, despite the fact that it seeks to promote changes on the island orientated toward democracy.

The Argentine source conceded that negotiations concerning both the subject of the embargo and the issue of fundamental freedoms "were arduous and difficult."

"The fact that everybody goes to bed at two o'clock in the morning and continues discussions at seven o'clock the same morning is quite indicative that everything is not smooth sailing," illustrated the source.

The second point of the final declaration will underscore the importance of trade relations between Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and the EU, a subject that was analyzed today at the meeting that the four Mercosur member countries' presidents held with Spanish Head of Government Felipe Gonzalez and Portuguese President Mario Soares.

The third point of the declaration, which was proposed by Venezuela, will deal with corruption and its negative influence on nations' progress.

The fourth point, which, according to the same sources, was one of the most controversial subjects during negotiations, will include a condemnation of nuclear tests conducted by France and the PRC.

The Argentine sources reported that the "only resistance" to the inclusion of the foregoing point came from Spain and Portugal, because of the fact that they are France's partners.

The document that will be released tomorrow will also include among its salient points a vigorous condemnation of terrorism and drug trafficking, as was the case in the previous summit meetings.

This document, which will be entitled Matters of Special Interest for the Ibero-American Heads of State and Government, will be made public together with two other documents on education as a key element for achieving development, and another one on cooperation among Latin American countries and between the latter and the Ibero-American bloc.

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Mrs. Clinton Opens First Ladies of the Americas Conference

PY1710024295 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0119 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Asuncion, 16 Oct (EFE) — U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton today asserted that there is huge human potential wasted in America, especially among the children and women.

At the opening ceremony of the Fifth Conference of First Ladies of the Americas, held in Asuncion, Hillary Clinton said that "there isn't a single nation" in America that can say that "all its children are well-fed, clothed, have a home, a school, and are raised by their parents."

Neither are all women "treated with dignity and respect, nor are they offered the opportunities to develop all the potential God has provided them with," added Bill Clinton's wife.

Hillary said: "Our world is far from perfect," but added that she comes to this conference with optimism about the future, because "at this moment in some part of our hemisphere a child is being innoculated, a small girl is going to school, and a woman is starting her own business."

In the U.S. First Lady's opinion progress has been made in solving problems as a result of the "Summit of the Americas" in Miami, the UN conference in Copenhagen, and the recent Women's Conference in Beijing.

She mentioned that in Miami it was not only stated that each nation must invest in its people, but also that women play a special role in the economic and social development.

In Copenhagen, she added, the struggle to fight poverty and the political aspects was stepped up, while in Beijing it was established that democracy and progress cannot be maintained in countries that have no respect for women.

Hillary mentioned the task of nongovernment and social organizations that are involved in investing in the development of people, including poor people and those who have no political responsibilities.

In her welcome speech to the visiting first ladies, hostess First Lady Teresa Carrasco de Wasmosy stated her belief that this conference "will add another link to the chain to unite America."

Carrasco added that "we belong to a region that struggles to improve the living standard and to promote the development of its people, and around this noble objective the role of the first ladies seeks to establish a new path to strengthen the commitment assumed by the chiefs of state and government."

Moreover, Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy, who today returned from Bariloche (Argentina), where he attended the Ibero-American Summit, asserted that "the women that have gathered here are a substantial component of our government's task" and a "fundamental and necessary" bridge between the mechanisms of the political power and the people."

He ended by stating: "You already occupy an unwavering role in the social policies we are promoting for our countries."

After opening the "summit," the 16 first ladies attending the event, in addition to the special representatives of 10 other countries and of international organizations, went to Government Palace to attend a reception hosted by President and Mrs. Wasmosy.

The working sessions will start tomorrow and last until 20 September, when those attending it will sign the document known as the "Asuncion Declaration."

Hopes Results Evolve Into 'Foreign Policy'

PY1610214495 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 16 Oct 95 p 16

[Editorial: "Meeting of First Ladies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fifth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas will take place in Asuncion starting today. The conference will last through the week and will focus on women and children's health and education. At least 20 first ladies of the Americas and representatives of international organizations that deal with the issues related to the conference agenda will attend the meeting.

According to the agenda, each participant will focus on one aspect of the issues to be discussed, based on the experience of the country they represent, and these reports will be discussed at plenary meetings. The Declaration of Paraguay will be signed on the last day of the conference. In sum, the participants will exchange experiences that have been acquired frequently under similar conditions.

The presence of observers from aid organizations is very important. They will receive first-hand information vital for regional aid programs because they will hear from the first ladies about the needs of each country. Everyone is well aware that the wife of the President of the United States, the country which is better off economically, will be both a participant in the meeting and a recipient of its conclusions, in hopes that these results will become U.S. foreign policy objectives

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concerning continental solidarity. This means that a large portion of future multilateral actions to improve the health of mothers and children, and education in the Americas will be mapped out at this meeting which will begin today.

Our country is honored to host such illustrious guests, and has the chance of becoming the birthplace of multilateral actions aimed at overcoming our continent's shortcomings in the sensitive above-mentioned areas, which have a great impact on the standards of living of millions of people.

One hopes that the reports will be honest. Concealing the truth, no matter how harsh it may be, can only harm those who do so because it will jeopardize an accurate diagnosis which is essential for drawing up effective plans and policies. It is obvious that this is not a social occasion to exchange praise and pleasantries, but a forum to discuss situations and problems, and to propose solutions.

At the same time we must assume the responsibility of ensuring that the first ladies and foreign observers will have a peaceful and pleasant stay in keeping with our country's traditional hospitality. This conference will put Paraguay in the international limelight, and this should be taken into account.

Sanguinetti Invited To Visit Havana, Castro To Visit Mexico

PY1610144795 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1312 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Montevideo, 16 Oct (EFE) — Uruguayan Foreign Minister Alvaro Ramos has announced that Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti was invited by Cuban President Fidel Castro to visit Havana, and that the Cuban leader has been invited to visit Mexico.

In response to his first official invitation in 23 years, Fidel Castro paid an official 36-hour visit to Uruguay on 13-15 October.

The Uruguayan foreign minister emphasized: "The step that Uruguay has just taken will be repeated by many other countries."

The Uruguayan foreign minister also emphasized that the Uruguayan Government's goal "was to facilitate frank, open, and relaxed talks" to cooperate with efforts to end the economic blockade that the United States has imposed on Cuba for more than three decades.

The Uruguayan foreign minister emphasized that his Cuban counterpart, Roberto Robaina, told him that since Uruguay invited Fidel Castro to visit Montevideo, Mexico President Ernesto Zedillo also invited the Cuban leader to make an official visit.

Two weeks ago, Zedillo paid an official visit to the United States during which he met President Bill Clinton.

Alvaro Ramos emphasized that Fidel Castro invited Sanguinetti to pay an official visit to Havana. Ramos noted that first he would visit the Caribbean island.

Possibility of Cuban, Mercosur Negotiations Announced

PY1610152595 Madrid EFE in Spanish
2245 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Montevideo, 14 Oct (EFE) — It was reported in Montevideo today that the Common Market of the South [Mercosur], comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, will begin negotiations with Cuba to establish a free trade association.

This information was released to Uruguayan journalists by Vice Foreign Minister Carlos Perez del Castillo who noted that Cuba, aside from its association with some Caribbean and Central American countries, has not joined any regional integration system.

Perez del Castillo visited Havana last month. He noted that concerning reintegration, it is believed Cuba should participate in international forums as now it does not have possibility of securing loans from multilateral financial organizations.

The vice foreign minister said that if there are talks about establishing a hemispheric free trade zone by 2005, Cuba should be part of it.

Perez del Castillo noted that the issue of negotiations with Cuba would be raised during the next Mercosur meeting, after which a schedule would be drawn up, as it was the case with other Latin American nations.

The vice foreign minister reported that Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil have partial agreements with Cuba, within the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), but explained that this is not the case with Paraguay, which does not have diplomatic relations with the Cuban Government.

Perez del Castillo said that in spite of trade relations between the two countries, there would be no problems in advancing on a "four plus one" system, as currently negotiated with Chile, Mexico, or the Andean Pact countries.

It is hoped that talks between the Mercosur and Cuba could begin before the end of the year.

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The future agreements between Cuba and the Mercosur would be included in the political talks with a EU delegation, scheduled for November in Havana.

The report issued by the EU group — which is headed by Yago Pico de Coana, general director for Latin American foreign policy — and two Latin American area directors from the French Foreign Ministry and the Italian Foreign Ministry, will help to advance negotiations on a possible economic and trade cooperation agreement.

More on Negotiations

PY1710023295 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2011 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Report by unidentified correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Montevideo, 16 Oct (TELAM/SNI) — Uruguayan Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Perez del Castillo, former head of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), stressed today in Montevideo that the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] will negotiate a trade alliance with Cuba according to the "four plus one" formula, which is the type of agreement that the bloc signed with the United States.

"The future negotiations with Cuba will be settled upon during the Mercosur's next meeting, when a plan will be outlined," Perez del Castillo said.

He added that both Mercosur and Cuba "believe that before the end of the year, they will be in a position to begin the talks."

"When Cuba's reinsertion is being talked about, then the possibility that this country will participate in international forums is thereby considered," the Uruguayan official said.

Perez del Castillo talked about the creation of a hemispheric free trade zone for the year 2005, and he highlighted the fact that "Cuba must be a member of it."

He recalled that "Cuba does not currently belong to any regional integration bloc and that it does not have the possibility of obtaining loans from multilateral financial organizations."

Perez del Castillo pointed out as an obstacle to undertaking the negotiations the fact that Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil have partial agreements with Cuba within the Latin American Integration Association framework, "something that does not affect Paraguay, which does not have diplomatic relations with the island."

Presidents Meet To Analyze Guatemalan Peace Process

PA1610215695 Guatemala City Televisiete Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 16 Oct 95

[From the "Channel Seven News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The presidents of Mexico, Spain, Colombia, and Central America analyzed the Guatemalan peace process in Guatemala during a private breakfast held right before the opening of the 5th Ibero-American Summit.

At the end of the meeting, which was held at a hotel in Argentina, Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres said that, in addition to the Guatemala peace issue, they talked about the Central American situation and its relations with Mexico, Spain, and the EU.

Among the heads of states of the countries that are friends with Guatemala, Mexico's Ernesto Zedillo, Spain's Felipe Gonzalez, Colombia's Ernesto Samper, El Salvador's Armando Calderon Sol, Honduras' Roberto Reina, Nicaragua's Violeta Chamorro, Costa Rica's Figueres, and, of course, Guatemala's Ramiro De Leon Carpio attended the meeting.

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Cuba

Reportage on Fidel Castro Visits to Uruguay, Argentina

Castro Honored During Visit to Uruguay

PA1410142595 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 Oct 95

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti held a dinner honoring Cuba's highest leader Fidel Castro, who began an official visit to this country on Friday. Upon arriving in Montevideo, Fidel Castro told the news media that he was very thrilled to visit Uruguay and sent warm and fraternal greetings to the people of this South American country.

During his stay in the Uruguayan capital, the Cuban chief of state will hold various meetings with Sanguinetti to basically examine economic ties between the two countries. In addition, he will visit the Supreme Court of Justice and honor Uruguayan hero Jose Artigas and Cuban hero Jose Marti in ceremonies to be held, respectively. in the plazas bearing their names.

Uruguayan Vice President Hugo Batalla described Fidel Castro's visit as an expression of his country's wishes to achieve Cuba's full admission into all of the Latin American organizations.

On Sunday, the Cuban president will conclude his visit to Uruguay and will travel to the Argentine city of Bariloche, where he will attend the Ibero-American Summit.

Castro Speaks at Summit in Argentina

PA1610150095 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1347 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, 16 Oct (PL) — Cuban President Fidel Castro said here today that if the blockade against his country is lifted, the revolution will be strengthened instead of weakened.

In a quick and improvised news conference held by the president upon entering the hotel where he is staying, to attend the Fifth Ibero-American Summit which begins today, Monday, in this city, he denied that a possible cessation of the aggressive U.S. policy may result in the end of the Cuban Revolution.

When asked if he gave up his most valued utopias, the president remarked: "Never." There are many of them that are yet to be fulfilled, he added.

The Cuban president attended a dinner with the other heads of state and government, for which he changed his legendary olive green uniform and wore a suit and tie.

At a concert during the dinner, President Fidel Castro sat next to Carlos Menem and King Juan Carlos of Spain.

The Fifth Ibero-American Summit will close at noon, on Tuesday, at the Llao-Llao Hotel, in the outskirts of Bariloche, a mountain town located in the cold Patagonia region.

Reportage on Visiting Russian Delegation's Activities

Raul Castro Receives Delegation

PA1310132995 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Oct 95

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Army General Raul Castro received [words indistinct] Oleg Soskovets [words indistinct] Russian delegation this afternoon. Civil Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu, other members of the country's high-ranking delegation — which arrived in Cuba on 10 October — and Russian Ambassador to Cuba Arnold Kalinin accompanied the distinguished visitor. [Words indistinct] General Ulises Rosales del Toro, and Julio Casas Regueiro participated in the meeting with the Revolutionary Armed Forces minister [words indistinct]. The talks were held in a [word indistinct] atmosphere and covered issues of bilateral interest and technical and military cooperation between the two countries. Before starting the dialogue [words indistinct] talked with the journalists who accompany the delegation.

Soskovets Begins Tour

PA1410040795 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1936 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 13 Oct (EFE) — Oleg Soskovets, Russian first deputy prime minister, began a tour of several Cuban provinces today after meeting with Cuban President Fidel Castro and Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro.

Soskovets, the highest-ranking Russian official to visit the island in recent years, delivered to Fidel Castro a message from Russian President Boris Yel'tsin. According to Soskovets, this message includes everything pertaining to the establishment of new principles in the bilateral economic relations.

Soskovets reviewed bilateral issues of interest and aspects of the technical-military cooperation between

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the two countries with Minister Raul Castro, the number two man in the political hierarchy of the island, the official newspaper GRANMA states today. This meeting was also attended by Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu and other military officers who constitute the 130-people delegation accompanying Soskovets on his visit to the island.

In addition to the interest to restore the degree of economic and commercial cooperation Cuba and Russian formerly maintained, the military sector seems to be another key issue of the negotiations taking place between the representatives of Havana and Moscow these days.

Reports from Moscow said recently the creation of an enterprise that will be responsible for refurbishing in Cuba the USSR-supplied weapons and technical-military material is expecte,d as well as that both parties will study a contract for shipping Russian spare parts for these repairs.

It has not been ruled out that Moscow agrees to pay compensations to Cuba for the operation of the radioelectric military station located on the "Lourdes" base, in Havana.

The Russian delegation visited "Lourdes" yesterday and also met with Economy and Planning Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez, to whom Soskovets said Cuba "has chosen the correct path to join the international economy" and affirmed Russian interest in increasing economic and commercial relations with the island.

Russia maintains a privileged place among the commercial partners of the island, despite the fact their exchange decreased considerably. In addition, they have petroleum for sugar as a main basis for barter.

Russian-Cuban commercial exchange represented in 1994 only 6.25 percent of the $8 billion it represented several years ago, and it has declined to nearly $500 million annually.

The high-ranking Russian official said the current economic recovery of his country will foster exports and its financial capability to invest abroad.

The three-day tour of the Provinces of Matanzas (center) and Cienfuegos (southeast) that began this Friday includes citrus plantations and a sugar mill, a petroleum refinery, and the Juragua nuclear plant, the construction of which was stopped in September of 1992 due to a lack of financing.

The Juragua nuclear project, in Cienfuegos, dubbed the "work of the century," requires $750 million for its completion, for which several foreign firms will compete, including two German firms — one of which is "Siemens" — and one Brazilian firm.

Russia granted a $30-million credit for the maintenance of the equipment, which was provided by the USSR for the construction of the first Cuban nuclear plant, the construction of which began in 1981.

Upon returning to Havana, Oleg Soskovets on 15 October will sign several agreements, including a memorandum on bilateral cooperation in the "civil application of atomic power."

Russians Discuss Investment

PA1710013695 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Oct 95

[From the "Evening Information Review"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas has met with businessmen who are accompanying Oleg Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the Russian Government. During the meeting, the parties discussed the possibility of Russian enterprises investing in branches of the Cuban economy.

Cabrisas spoke with the chairman about the oil for sugar exchange group and with the representative of the Russia-Cuba Association created to develop bilateral trade relations.

Investors for Nuclear Plant Sought

PA1410212895 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0511 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cienfuegos, 14 Oct [PL] — Russian First Deputy Chairman Oleg Soskovets and Cuban Basic Industry Minister Marcos Portal have announced the formation of a Cuban-Russian working group to seek investors for the Juragua nuclear plant.

Soskovets, who has been in Cuba since 10 October as a guest of the Cuban Government, has expressed his satisfaction over the upkeep of the equipment of the plant, which is located in this southern- central province.

The plant, the construction of which the Cuban Government halted in 1990 for economic reasons, has been satisfactorily evaluated three times by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The project has attracted investors from several Western countries, Russia, and Cuba.

According to the plant's director, Isaac Alayon, about $750 million is needed to put into operation the first VVER-440 reactor, which would generate between 409-417 MW of electricity. Of the required capital, Cuba would contribute $208 million, Russia $349 million, and Western contributors an additional $191 million. There is also the opportunity, however, for foreign

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participants to recover the money invested through the sale of electricity produced for state consumers in Cuba.

The Russian guests also toured other installations of economic interest in the area.

The mission will visit the Varadero tourist development area today, Saturday, and will meet with oil technicians. One of the main oil fields is near the famous beach and Cardenas Bay.

Soskovets on 15 October will sign in Havana several documents, including some that will broaden bilateral trade and cooperation ties.

The retinue is accompanied by 50 officials, entrepreneurs, and Russian journalists, Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas, and Cuban Basic Industry Minister Marcos Portal.

Main Russian Interests Identified

PA1610160495 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0306 GMT 14 Oct 95

[By Elsy Fors]

[FBIS Translated Text] Varadero, Cuba, 14 Oct (PL) — Russia's main interests in the Cuban market revolve around oil, nickel, and atomic energy, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets reported here today.

The highest-ranking Russian official to visit the island in the past five years told PRENSA LATINA during an exclusive interview that the foundations for collaboration between Russia and Cuba were established.

He assured that his country is willing to cooperate with Cuba in the future.

First, Soskovets said, I would like to underscore the capital invested by the former Soviet Union in many economic interests that are now property of the Cuban Government. In Cuba at present, as in Russia, there is review of the property concept, and new corporations with mixed capital and joint ventures are being created.

He added that Russia's main interests are the energy sector, nonferrous metals, atomic energy, and the search for and processing of minerals.

The Russian first deputy prime minister said that President Boris Yeltsin tasked him with reestablishing economic relations with Cuba.

For the Cubans, Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas and Basic Industry Marcos Portal reaffirmed the island's willingness to reestablish economic ties with Russia as long as they do not interfere with commitments already acquired with other commercial partners that have taken positions in various areas of the national economy in past years.

Basic Industry Deputy Ministers Antonio de los Reyes and Manuel Marrero discussed associations and joint ventures created with foreign participation in that industry, especially in oil exploration and exploitation and the mining of nickel and other metals such as gold, copper, lead, and zinc.

On 15 October in the morning, the delegation headed by Soskovets — which is made up of ministers, deputy ministers, and reporters — will conclude its official activities with the signing of important documents, including those having to do with an agreement on the Juragua Nuclear Power Plant and the exchange of sugar for oil.

Delegation Tours Nuclear Plant

PA1710042195 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Oct 95

[From the "NTV Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After welcoming the high-level Russian delegation headed by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, Isaac Alayon, director of the Juragua Nuclear Plant Complex, proceeded to list the most important events in the construction of the plant and its main technical features. The Russian delegation saw firsthand the status of the project during a tour of the first reactor's building, the machine room, the pump room, and the large weight storage facility.

Together with Juan Menendez Castellano, a member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Cienfuegos Province, the delegation also visited the oil refinery and other economic facilities in the province. The delegation was also accompanied by Basic Industry Minister Marcos Portal and Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas.

At the end of the visit, it was decided to form a Cuban-Russian Executive Group to continue the negotiations aimed at completing and later exploiting the nuclear plant. The group's work plan will be signed on Sunday.

Before the visit to Cienfuegos, Soskovets and his companions toured the Jaguey Grande Citrus Complex. Afterward, the delegation headed back to Matanzas Province, where they toured oil facilities in Cardenas and Varadero.

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Eight Agreements Signed

PA1610160695 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0041 GMT 16 Oct 95

[By Elsy Fors]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 15 Oct (PL) — Russia and Cuba signed today eight agreements that the sides considered as the start of a new more pragmatic phase in bilateral relations.

Following an intense schedule that included meetings with the island's highest-ranking officials and a tour of economic targets in Matanzas and Cienfuegos Provinces, Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets voiced his satisfaction over the results of his visit, the first visit at the highest level in the past five years.

The documents signed by Soskovets and Carlos Lage, vice president of the Council of State, as well as by the ministers of the respective areas, included one on domestic commerce, a cooperation protocol between the Cuban and Russian Transportation Ministries, and a memorandum on the meeting of the intergovernmental commission on Russo-Cuban economic and scientific cooperation.

In addition, a joint task group was created to seek investment partners with the intention of resuming the construction of the Juragua Nuclear Power Plant and extending the $30 million loan granted in 1993 for the plant's maintenance after economic considerations prompted the government to halt the project.

Also signed during a ceremony held at the Havana Convention Center were an intergovernmental agreement on tourism, a memorandum on the results of the talks held between the two governments, one memorandum on basic industries, and the protocol on commercial exchange between 1996 and 1998.

The latter envisages shipments of Cuban sugar in exchange for Russian oil at a ratio of 3 tonnes of fuel for each tonne of sugar, based on the world market prices.

In this respect, Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas noted that sugar shipments corresponding to 1995, when the shipment of 1 million tonne was agreed on, could be entered into the transition year (1996) for which the figure of 1.5 million tonnes of sugar was established.

Cabrisas confirmed that Russian companies are participating in pre-financing the Cuban harvest. In addition, the supply of fuel and spare parts for farming machinery is envisioned.

The 1995 Cuban-Russian exchange, Cabrisas stated, will be in the neighborhood of $400 million, which places Russia at the head in the island's foreign commerce, followed by Spain and Mexico.

Commentary on Visit

PA1410035095 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Oct 95

[Commentary by Norberto Hernandez Valdes from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] As is well known, the disappearance of the USSR five years ago produced an economic catastrophe in Cuba that has been described as its worst crisis in history. Cuban-Russian relations were suddenly depoliticized. This cooled off their ties gloomily and knocked down the island's economy, 85 percent of which depended on this vital partnership. Moreover, the U.S. economic blockade struck the small Caribbean country with all its merciless strength.

Cuba found itself like a vessel at a standstill amid a violent storm. The Cuban Revolution encountered the greatest challenge in its history and has thus far demonstrated its unyielding vitality and ability to direct the country in overcoming the crisis only with the Cuban people's strength developed over the past 30 years.

National industry was nourished with equipment, spare parts, consultancy, and cooperation, which were vital in counteracting the effects of the U.S. economic blockade and making important local advancements. Russia suddenly became a capitalist country without political commitments with the Cuban Revolution, and bilateral relations had to slowly evolve toward what currently prevails in the world scenario: a market economy and mutual advantage. Nevertheless, affectionate memories remain between the two peoples, a point which cannot be ignored and, in fact, has not been ignored.

Russia and Cuba are readapting their relations to the current world demands with promising prospects. An important delegation from the Russian Government headed by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets has just arrived in Havana. The delegation is made up of Russian businessmen who will explore new prospects for economic relations and will sign important cooperation agreements with the Cuban Government.

Among the most important topics is the [word indistinct] of the Juragua nuclear plant in central Cuba, which was built with the former USSR's cooperation and was suspended near its final stage for the aforementioned reasons. This plant will play a vital role in satisfying many of Cuba's needs and largely compensate the lack of oil for power production. The Cuban people have been experiencing blackouts daily, basically due to a lack of fuel.

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The conclusion of the Juragua plant has been used by Cuba's adversaries in their campaign to undermine Cuba's economy, arguing it could become an environmental threat to the region. This campaign has been absolutely refuted by demonstrating that this installation is as secure as others around. It is expected that during Soskovets' visit to Cuba, Russian cooperation and the participation of other investors will be achieved to finish this important project.

The visit by Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets paves the way for the positive development of bilateral relations despite the U.S. economic siege.

Commentary Cites Castro on Revolution Anniversary

PA1310135895 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Oct 95

[Commentary by Jose Llanes; from the "National Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today marks the Cuban Revolution's 127th anniversary. As Fidel once said: Cuba has experienced only one revolution, the final and most difficult battle in the long struggle for independence.

The struggle to survive in a unipolar world — in which the market economy rules, there is a strong North-South influence, and neoliberalism is imposed on underdeveloped countries — forces us to redouble our efforts and sacrifice even more to protect our independence and our alternative path to development, built upon achievements throughout our long struggle.

Those who wish to reinforce the U.S. blockade of Cuba are trying not only to rob us of our independence and recover privileges earned during the war of 1898 but also to prevent Cuba from proving to the world that a nation developing on its own with a limited amount of natural resources can develop its own economic plan to protect citizens in basic sectors such as health and education.

Fidel has said: This final battle for our independence may be long but we are winning. He made this statement during a three-day meeting of central and local governments recently, at which there was ample evidence of recent accomplishments. Work is the one factor among many that will lead us to victory; we must continue to work and produce, cutting costs — particularly in the export sector — as much as possible along the way; work and the measures which have been, and will continue to be, implemented are the fundamental path to victory.

An efficient harvest this year is key to our economy's modest takeoff in 1995. We are fighting with the same spirit of independence with which Cespedes fought 127 years ago. We must always love our founders and thank them for their immortal legacy. Resolve, will, and intelligence will carry us through all difficult times.

New Housing Institute President Appointed

PA1310160595 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Oct 95

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cuban Council of State has appointed Eusebio Mario Cabello Marante as new president of the National Housing Institute. This appointment was recommended by the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC]. The new president of the National Housing Institute was a member of the Executive Bureau of the PCC Provincial Committee in Holguin.

Tourism 'Should Increase' Contribution to National Budget

PA1410022395 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 11 Oct 95

[Report by Rosario Perez; from the "Doing Radio" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rodolfo Jimenez, president of the national organization commission for the First Congress of Tourism Workers, stated in Bayamo, Granma Province, that this economic sector should increase its contribution to the national budget by 50 percent.

He stressed that, regardless of the higher hotel occupancy and tourist flow, a significant portion of that increase will come from improved economic efficiency. Jimenez added that a new system of incentives, whose basic principle is the rigorous linking of individual and collective work results, and management, is being studied.

Report on Sugar Industry Financing

PA1310230495 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Oct 95

[Report by Marianela Samper; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The sugar industry is of enormous importance to the Cuban economy. Because it is a traditional crop, it represents the island's main export commodity, and to this we must add its employment capacity as well as its interaction with other industries. As is already known, the previous harvest was the revolution's smallest, with slightly more than 3.3 million

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tons of sugar. The reason for this is also public knowledge — lack of supplies, especially fertilizers; fuel; and stump aging over the past four years after the loss of our main suppliers, the former Soviet Union.

In the face of this situation, the Cuban Government sought solutions, starting with a line of credits worth about $116 million, to support the recovery of this industry through several financial institutions.

Alberto Betancourt Roa is the director of state-owned Cubazucar and explains everything about obtaining preliminary financing for sugar contracts, which is repayed when exports take place.

[Begin Betancourt Roa recording] We looked for a solution to guarantee sugar mill supplies and the industry's recovery. This is something the government was unable to do with its own funds, because it simply did not have them. A search began for a group of financiers, and whole provinces were selected because sugar production in Cuba is organized by territories — i.e. provinces. These entire provinces receive, besides governmental financing, an additional financing, which a foreign financier provides in order to guarantee the availability of all basic products initially needed to increase sugarcane production. These are very simple credit mechanisms for purchases made by traditional foreign trade firms. These are credits that are not paid and are instead a purely financial free credit [sentence as heard]. They receive payment for the cost of that credit under normal market terms. Lastly, there is a profit-sharing scheme starting with the sugar production increases that take place every year, compared to the basic production figures established for each of the provinces that take part in this scheme. Eight provinces will take part during the upcoming harvest. [end recording]

Betancourt Roa commented that the interest rates paid are the normal rates paid for credit to Cuba, which could be described as high because they consider that the island is a country with certain risks, not only from the point of view of the economy, but also political, due to the constant U.S. pressures. But he also clarified the advantages.

[Begin Betancourt Roa recording] The credit is expensive compared to credits to other countries. But in terms of credits received by Cuba, I would say the opposite holds true. Perhaps this is one of the best credits the country receives because I receive the money and make the purchase straight away. I am not tied to a financier giving me a credit for me to purchase from him, which in addition to charging me the normal financial costs, will charge for everything he sells me. With this system the enterprises can purchase directly, thus there is a possibility of reducing the overall cost of operations. [end of recording]

A good portion of supplies are purchased in the country, therefore the industrial economy linked to sugar production is reactivated, such as the steel-mechanical [sidero-mecanica], chemical, glue, and light industries. The Cubazucar director also commented that the financial scheme for sugar refineries is not a direct investment, nor are there sales of shares, but has aspects that make it different. He said refineries need term agreements of 10 to 15 years because this is a longer process that is fully dependent on its profitability and the price difference between raw and refined sugar. There have been prices as high as $120 and as low as $35.

[Begin recording] [Betancourt Roa] The risk is far greater than in the case of raw sugar, where the price per bag is clearly established and one can carry out protected operations far easier. The risk with refined sugar is far greater, especially considering that these agreements are exclusively for export. In other words, in the case of refined sugar, there are no sales in the domestic market.

[Samper] How many financiers are interested in refined sugar operations?

[Betancourt Roa] Several have expressed interest, but we are not really interested in having several. We have been discussing, up to now, two refineries. Between the two, if we manage to modernize and recover their original production capacity or slightly more, there would be 450,000 tons of refined sugar, which would be a good figure to begin with. Cuba's maximum refined sugar production potential was 1 million tons. [end recording]

Several financial institutions have opened lines of credit to support the Cuban sugar production recovery process. The ING [Netherlands Caribbean Bank] has been able to create groups to work toward this goal in Havana and Matanzas Provinces.

[Begin ING Bank Havana Representative Peter Booth recording, in English with simultaneous translation into Spanish] We began Havana's in December and first production results will be seen in the 1995-1996 harvest. Despite the fact that it is premature to predict this year's production, we can say that it will be of better quality. [end recording]

Peter Booth, representative for the bank in Havana, said that in order to obtain the best return on investments, an effort will need to be made prior to beginning the harvest so as to ensure that agricultural equipment is in good condition. He said that in general, sugarcane production in Havana and Matanzas Provinces was

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approximately 50 percent of the average for the best years and thanks to financing, fertilization areas have been increased 10-fold compared to the previous year.

[Begin Booth recording, in English with simultaneous translation into Spanish] The project seeks to increase sugar production in Matanzas and Havana Provinces by approximately 1.5 million tons. From the comparison point of view, these two provinces produced slightly more than 600,000 tons of sugar (?compared to the) previous harvest. Lastly, I must say that we are very pleased to be participating in this experience; we are sure about the recovery of the Cuban sugar production; we are pleased over the excellent level of understanding between the bank, the ministry, and the sugar industry. The agriculture industry has made great efforts; production can of course be increased, but it will have to be done with efficiency. Efficiency must be attained even though it means closing down inefficient sugar mills. Thank you very much. [applause] [end recording]

France's General Bank Societe is the third largest in that European country and the 17th largest in the world, with assets worth $300 billion. It operates in 70 countries and works with a series of products in which sugar is one of the main ingredients.

This bank first established commercial ties with Cuba in 1993, first by financing barter [preceding word in English] operations and, currently, in the handling of lines of credit to finance sugar. (Michel Magno), director general of Societe General, said that it is important to open an office in Havana.

[Begin (Magno) recording, in French with simultaneous translation into Spanish] We firmly believe that this will be a great step toward consolidation and will reinforce our role in the sugar trade [words indistinct] financing. We are not limited to sugar but include other spheres such as tourism, mining, and agriculture. [end recording]

Right now Cuba is in its take-off stage; the recovery of its sugar industry is a hot topic for both Cubans and foreigners. That is why during the recently-concluded international sugar workshop, for the first time ever, optimists and pessimists gave identical opinions: the Cuban sugar industry will grow next year. Taking into account the level of specialists, entrepreneurs, and bankers in attendance, the evaluation is good.

TRABAJADORES Encourages Higher Sugarcane Yield

PA1210181195 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Oct 95

[Commentary by Orlando Contreras; from the "National Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] TRABAJADORES carries an editorial today that includes an urgent call to all those involved in this year's sugarcane harvest to increase the industry's yield by one percent [un punto], which would afford us an additional $100 to $150 million under current conditions. It notes the organizational and technical conditions needed to obtain this yield. We must consider just how significant the individual is to this effort, for it is we who will determine whether the harvest is a success or not. We should adopt the work ethic this editorial espouses during the upcoming harvest.

Let's reflect on some of what we have learned as sugarcane planters and harvesters: Not all varieties of sugarcane have the same yield. Our country cultivated a variety of sugarcane that had high sugar concentration but little resistance to plant and animal diseases and pests — rats, for example — before new varieties were introduced. Harvests of 6 million tonnes were common using that variety of sugarcane, with fields that were no more extensive than the current ones and in shorter harvest and milling periods. Why? We used to suffer the whip of the overpowering foreman in the fields and the mills when there was no mechanical cutters or plows. That overpowering force, which the workers depended on for work — one characteristic of capitalism — has been replaced — as it should be — with a more humanitarian and fairer society that appeals to the consciences of all workers and all of us. A higher level of humanity, whereby demands, discipline, and the necessary intensity and productivity at work is part of a society without exploiters or foremen at the service of the owners of the mill or of the sugarcane fields, must be honored.

Roundup of Sugarcane Developments Through 16 Oct

PA1610181195

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on sugarcane and sugar industry developments in Cuba monitored through 16 October:

A report read to delegates attending the 10th Sugar Congress taking place in Santi Espiritu stresses that the territory will have to put its maximum effort into repairing industrial and agriculture machinery. A

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delegate referred to the drop in sugar production during the special period and the measures adopted to deter further drops in production. The report also made reference to increases in sugar cane yield in some sectors as a result of the use of hand cleaning methods and use of fertilizers and herbicides. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2030 GMT 15 Oct 95)

The National Bureau of the Union of Young Communists has launched the slogan: "I Will Not Stop," in support of the sugarcane harvest. The youths made the pledge during an event in the Mariana Grajales Agroindustrial Complex of Villa Clara. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 9 Oct 95)

Up until the second part of September, the Camaguey Wire Mesh factory had produced 3,000 rolls of wire mesh for sugarcane carts, tripling its production this year compared to 1994. The workers of the Camaguey factory have introduced a new technique, which consists of mechanically closing the meshes with a pneumatic pistol, humanizing production, reducing costs, and cutting down on material waste which in the past registered as much as 12 percent. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 9 Oct 95)

The TRABAJADORES editorial on 10 October made an urgent appeal to all sectors involved with the sugarcane harvest to achieve a bigger industrial yield, which would signify in current conditions between $100 and $150 million more. The paper reports that in the past, sugarcane varieties had a high sugar content, but were more exposed to plagues, yet Cuba achieved 6 billion tons in areas no bigger than the current ones. This was because in the past there were no mechanical cutters and foremen took it upon themselves to make sure everyone produced their utmost. The success of the harvest depends on us, the paper states, appealing to the workers' conscience. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Oct 95)

Industrial repairs in a number of Camaguey sugar plants have caused delays and require an increased work rate. The four plants most committed by the elevated volumes in investment are Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, Brazil, Batalla de las Guasimas, and Panama. In Cespedes a French boiler is being mounted, but a lack of spare parts has caused a six-day delay. In the Panama plant, work has remained stable, while the work rate in the Brazil plant has increased. According to the chronogram for the sugar harvest 95-96, all involved should make every effort to guarantee the estimated output. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Oct 95)

The eighth session of the Sugar Congress in Cienfuegos opened with a discussion on the harvest losses caused by sugarcane that is left in the field when workers, who clean with machetes, do not work efficiently. A 14 July plant delegate met with Pedro Ross, secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation, and told him that the Montalvo General Union of Cuban Workers reported the loss of thousands of sugarcane arrobas last year due to the presence of plants with itch-producing leaves and weeds, but that this situation is now changing. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Oct 95)

In Holguin, the sugar workers will be able to meet their commitments if they carry out their work with efficiency and discipline. Jorge Luis Sierra, first secretary of the party in that province, said it was inadmissible that they have detected in several complexes sugarcane fields that have not been cleaned properly. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Oct 95)

On the occasion of events rendering tribute to Camilo Che, hundreds of youths of the Union of Young Communists in Ciego de Avila endorsed the slogan: I Will Not Stop. They intend to plant at least 30 caballerias of sugarcane and to dedicate cultural attention to other agroindustrial complexes of the region. The youths voiced their commitment to achieve 80 million arrobas of sugarcane during the next harvest. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Oct 95)

Technological discipline and agroindustrial quality continue to be the main topics discussed at the 19th Sugar Congress being held in Cienfuegos. The careful maintenance of sugar plantations was stressed by Sugar Industry Minister Nelson Torres. We cannot base ourselves on the concept that the sugarcane is old and cannot be recovered, said Minister Torres in one of his speeches. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Oct 95)

Roundup of Politburo Members' Activities

PA1310123895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on the activities of Cuban Communist Party Central Committee Politburo members monitored through 12 October.

RAUL CASTRO RUIZ, JUAN ALMEIDA BOSQUE, and ULISES ROSALES DEL TORO surveyed the Moncada 2-95-2 military exercise, which the eastern army staged in Holguin Province on 3 October. They were briefed on a report on the measures taken to defend the province under different types of attacks, including a total blockade of the island. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Oct 85)

ULISES ROSALES DEL TORO has chaired a meeting with Las Villas Central University students on educa-

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tional issues. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 6 Oct 95)

ULISES ROSALES DEL TORO has participated in a meeting of the People's Government Provincial Assembly in Havana, which included a report on the upkeep of settlements in Havana Province. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 9 Oct 95)

RICARDO ALARCON attended a ceremony in honor of Gilbert Parent, speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, at the Havana University Assembly Hall on 11 October. (Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1758 GMT 11 Oct 95)

Haiti

Aristide Comments on Anniversary of Return; Gore Attends

PA1610225495 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 16 Oct 95

[From "The Waking Up Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the occasion of the first anniversary of President Aristide's return to the country and to power as well, there were several activities on Sunday, 15 October. Yesterday morning, a ceremony was held at the National Palace in the presence of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and the head of state. The head of state stressed the achievements of the team he has been leading since 15 October 1995.

The ceremony continued with the presence of U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, who acknowledged the government's efforts to establish peace, security, and democracy in the country. [passage omitted]

In the opinion of attorney Danton Leger, public prosecutor of Jacmel, considering the macoutes, attaches, and members of the Revolutionary Front for the Promotion and Progress of Haiti continue to challenge justice without fear and despite the ruling against them by the Justice Department, President Aristide's return to the country on 15 October of last year has made no difference.

This statement was made on the occasion of the first anniversary of President Aristide's return. Attorney Danton Leger talks about a version of events contrary to that of the U.S. vice president, who says there is no macoute or attache challenging justice. [passage omitted]

For his part, President Aristide pleaded once again in favor of protection of the environment because the U.S. Vice President Butrus Butrus...[pauses] U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, who is nicknamed Mr. Ozone, is very interested in environmental matters, in things having to do with the ecology. This is why on the occasion of his meeting with President Aristide, the latter focused in his speech on the matter of protecting the environment, which was done in during the three years of coup d'etat, and Aristide called on all political leaders to protect the political climate.

[Begin Aristide recording] Once again, we give all political leaders who are in the opposition or who are not in the opposition a big democratic embrace, so we can move forward together, whether you are represented in the parliament or not, while protecting our political and democratic climate. [In English] As Haiti moves to consolidate again (?uphold) democracy, we are [words indistinct] that the great choice of our success is shared with the world. [Words indistinct] this choice was expressed in Washington where President Clinton joined with the young children of Lafamiy se Lavi [In the Family Lies Life, a charity organization founded by Aristide] in the celebration of the one-year anniversary of the restoration of democracy to Haiti. [end recording]

Car Accompanying Mrs. Gore Stoned in Cite Soleil

PA1610145395 Port-au-Prince Tropic FM Radio in Creole 1200 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the cars that accompanied the motorcade of the wife of U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore was hit with stones yesterday in Cite Soleil [Port-au-Prince slum neighborhood].

According to Eric Falt, spokesman for the United Nations, the stones that broke the glass of the security guards' car were hurled by some people who worked their way into the group of onlookers, causing one U.S. soldier and one Bangladesh soldier to be injured. This incident happened yesterday in Cite Soleil while Mrs. Gore was visiting the people living there.

According to an AFP dispatch, lawbreakers broke the glass window of the car of U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore in Cite Soleil.

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Zedillo Says Chiapas Elections 'Extremely Satisfactory'

PA1610191795 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1723 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, 16 Oct [NOTIMEX] — Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo voiced his satisfaction today with the calm in which the municipal and legislative elections were held yesterday in the southeastern state of Chiapas.

There is great maturity and a great desire to reestablish democracy in that Mexican state, Zedillo told newsmen shortly before the opening of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit he is attending in the Argentine city of San Carlos de Bariloche.

The Mexican chief of state said the elections represent the greatest encouragement to continue to give a big impulse to the peace talks that are being held since April with the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN], which surfaced in January 1994.

The calm manner in which the Chiapas elections were held is good news and, above all, is a big boost that has been received by the peace process in Chiapas, the president added.

Zedillo noted that the most important thing was that the elections transpired with calm and great respect on the part of the citizens, which means that "elections were held with social peace in Chiapas and that should satisfy all of us Mexicans."

The Mexican president was personally moved to learn of statements by electoral observers, who referred to the elections as a process in keeping with the rules that had been determined by the local congress and political parties.

Zedillo referred to the situation that occurred in the Chiapas municipality of Ocosingo, where the local elections were postponed until 15 November in view of the absence of candidates.

In Chiapas there are 110 municipalities and Ocosingo represents a small percentage of the total votes, the president said, noting that given the circumstances the global result that can be obtained from the Chiapas process is extremely satisfactory.

Commission: PRI Ahead in 'Calm' Elections

PA1610203995 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez, 16 Oct (NOTIMEX) — Elections to replace 40 local deputies and 109 mayors in the Mexican southern state of Chiapas were characterized by a climate of calm and tranquility, the State Electoral Commission (CEE) reported today.

On presenting the preliminary election returns for yesterday's elections, electoral authorities said the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) won the municipality of Totolapa and maintained a favorable position in eight more municipalities.

According to preliminary reports, the PRI won in Totolapa, after 100 percent of the ballot boxes had been counted. It also was ahead in Berriozabal, Catazaja, Cintalapa, Juarez, Oxchuc, Salto de Agua, San Fernando, and Villa Comaltitlan.

The CEE reported that during the local elections 2,916 polling places were set up, representing 96.97 percent of those registered, after the election for mayor was postponed in the municipalities of Ocosingo and Nicolas Ruiz.

The center-leftist Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) was ahead in three municipalities, while the Conservative National Action Party (PAN) was ahead in one, according to the vote tally on Monday morning, the CEE reported.

PRI leaders in the state capital of Tuxtla Gutierrez recognized that votes do not favor it here or in the municipality of Huixtla where the PAN was clearly in the lead compared to the rest of the political parties.

The Youth Coalition of Electoral Observers said they were able to verify directly and objectively the pureness and clarity of the elections, as well as the constant and responsible voter turnout.

It noted in a communique that the fact the electoral process took place calmly, with minor incidents, is a source of satisfaction, because it shows that it is possible for citizens to fulfill their obligations.

According to observers, despite the adverse weather conditions in the zone of Los Altos, citizens went to the polls and participated openly, demonstrating their confidence in the process.

Chiapas Governor Julios Cesar Ruiz Ferro said on Sunday that the citizens had reiterated their peacekeeping nature on going to vote for development and a better life.

"In this electoral tourney, all parties must exist within the context of democracy, independently of the ideology that is given in the electoral struggle. The political promises and working platform will be the best way to achieve triumph," he stated.

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PRD Leaders: Clinton, Zedillo 'Deceiving' Constituents

PA1610170395 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 12 Oct 95 p 14

[Report by Salvador Guerrero Chipres]

[FBIS Translated Text] Both U.S. President Bill Clinton and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo are "deceiving" their constituents: They have implemented economic programs that have harmed their peoples and are barely able to sustain their governments with the opposition of larger political parties, associated silently with sectors from their own parties, the National Executive Committee of the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] stated.

PRD national leader Porfirio Munoz Ledo voiced his surprise at the "naivete" of Zedillo, who learned about Clinton's remark that Mexico represents "a domestic affair" for the United States and did not say anything in the face "of what nearly represents an annexationist declaration."

Jorge Calderon, PRD international affairs secretary, lamented the "serious regression" of Zedillo, given the importance previous governments assigned to the immigration issue: The Mexican president considered an issue of economic importance, that was treated before at the binational level, an exclusive U.S. affair, he commented.

Munoz Ledo remarked that "the devaluation," which he considered to be forthcoming, "will not be stopped with diplomatic flattery." He stated that the government of Zedillo intends to follow, "in a subtle manner," the same path of Carlos Salinas of resting on the country's image abroad: "He is seeking verbal support to get the political legitimacy he lacks within the country."

Calderon considered that Clinton's "disproportionate, noncritical, and baseless praise" for Zedillo, "hurts the sensibility" of two million people thrown into unemployment since the December crisis, thousands of youths who cannot find jobs, and all those businessmen who went bankrupt recently.

The PRD national leader recalled that in the 1970's, Mexico was classified within the U.S. "domestic security zone." In 1995, he added, a "substantive" change was made.

"Now we represent a domestic affair and this seems excessive... the position of the Mexican Government cannot be any weaker," he warned.

He drew a certain parallelism between Zedillo and Clinton: "The U.S. President insisted to the public opinion that NAFTA was a success, that is an illusion because it did not expand the market or encourage production investment; in Mexico, the domestic market has been wiped out, and on both sides speculative interests are fostered and Mexico is close to bankruptcy."

The two presidents, he noted, are promoting an economic program contrary to the preferences of broad sectors of their parties.

Calderon insisted that as long as the crisis of the economic model continues, part of which is the silent banking restabilization — he mentioned Cremi, Serfin, Banpais, Inverlat, and Banco Obrero — there will not be an economic recovery. This recovery has now been moved to 1997 by Guillermo Ortiz, finance and public credit secretary, and IMF Director Michael Camdessus.

Munoz Ledo and Calderon criticized the secretary of foreign relations, whom they described "an organizer of an operation to sell the country's image rather than a defender of national interests."

Debtors File 80 Legal Proceedings Against Banks

PA1610162295 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 12 Oct 95 p 56

[Report by Angeles Cruz]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Barzon Movement filed 80 legal proceedings for usury charges against the Bank of Mexico (B de M) and various credit institutions. Thus, hearings will begin next week in Toluca in Mexico State.

Alfonso Ramirez Cuellar, leader of the Barzon Movement, said the first two criminal cases were filed against B de M and Bancomer [Bank of Commerce] at the 56th and 28th civil courts in the aforementioned city. Beginning on 14 October, legal proceedings, which were also filed in Cancun and the Federal District, will become widespread once elements for legal support are gathered.

The legal proceedings demand nullification of banking interests because these are higher than any debtor's payment capability. Armando Herrera, legal coordinator of the Barzon Movement, explained that according to Article 75 of the Credit Institutions Law, loans should be granted further to a verification of the debtor's economic and financial situation, but in this case "the B de M applies interest rates as it sees fit."

The debtors' leader added that in times similar to the present, when debtors have lost their payment capability, the crime of capitalizing interest, which is prohibited by law, was also committed.

Regarding mortgage loans, Ramirez Cuellar pointed that there is an imminent risk for debtors to lose their

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properties because only 9.5 percent of the 264,500 letters of intent that thus far have been signed within the framework of the Agreement for Immediate Support to Bank Debtors (ADE) belong to this loan category.

He said approximately 1.34 million people have mortgage loans, of which 80 percent are worth more than 200,000 pesos. This means, he added, that these are beyond the ADE top level for granting a subsidized interest rate of 6.5 percent.

For this reason, there will be a general meeting next Saturday at the Covadonga restaurant to discuss strategies for legal and financial defense of mortgage loans. Beginning at 1000, the Barzon members will discuss what stand they will take regarding the UDI's [Investment Units], letters of intent, and ADE. There will be a forum the day before at the Chamber of Deputies to examine other options to solve the accrued portfolio problem. The Barzon Movement will recommend signing a letter of intent that will equally compromise banks, government, and debtors.

Roundup of Economic Developments Through 16 Oct

PA1610210095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments in Mexico monitored through 16 October 1995.

Luis De Pablo Cerna, director of National Railways of Mexico, Ferronales, announced that the Secretary of Finance and Public Credit, SHCP, will take over Ferronales' foreign debt to expedite its privatization process. According to unofficial figures, Ferronales' total liabilities would represent about 9 percent of its assets, which are worth more than 45 billion new pesos. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 7 Oct 95 p 48)

The Bank of Mexico, reported that 11.446 billion new pesos were withdrawn from the capital market during the first six months of 1995. At the end of this period, total foreign investment showed a negative balance of $9.547 billion. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 7 Oct 95 p 1)

Hector Larios Santillan, president of the Business Coordinating Council, said nine months of economic crisis have left about two million people unemployed and have caused a 70-percent drop in domestic productivity. Larios Santillan added that thus far 46 percent of total debtors have refinanced their debts. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 7 Oct 95 p 52)

During the first half of 1995, industrial production had an accumulated drop of 6.2 percent. According to SHCP figures, this constant drop reached 7 percent in July. During the first half of 1995, total savings represented only 28.3 percent of the gross domestic product in comparison to 58.8 percent ten years ago. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO (ANALISIS Supplement) in Spanish 9 Oct 95 p 3A)

According to the Mexican Association of Automobile Industry, AMIA, local auto sales dropped 72.6 percent while auto exports increased by 32.1 percent in August 1995. Thus far in 1995, accumulated production for the export market has increased by 115,000 units, 31.3 percent, in comparison to 1994. AMIA reported that between January and July 1995, international auto trade left Mexico a $2.3146-billion surplus with a 40.7-percent increase in exports and an 8.4-percent drop in imports. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 9 Oct 95 p 49)

Mexican Petroleum reported that during the first eight months in 1995, sales of Magna-Sin gasoline increased by 14.8 in comparison to the same period in 1994, and 254,100 barrels daily were sold in the local market. Official figures show that the production of Nova gasoline decreased from 428,900 barrels daily in 1991 to an average of 225,600 barrels daily. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 9 Oct 95 p 50)

The SHCP reported an accumulated trade surplus of $4.490 billion for the first eight months in 1995, according to a 9 October report datelined Mexico City. During this period, exports increased to $51.510 billion, a 32.3-percent increase over 1994, and imports decreased by 7.8 percent, down to a total of $47.02 billion. The SHCP also reported a $708-million surplus in Mexico's foreign trade balance for August 1995 when exports amounted to $7.116 billion and imports amounted to $6.408 billion. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0158 GMT 10 October 95)

According to a Mexico City, 9 October datelined item, the Bank of Mexico announced that interest rates for Treasury Certificates, CETES, for 29 and 92 days increased by 0.96 and 2.21 percent respectively. Investors acquired 1 billion pesos (some $150.829 million) in CETES at 29 days and another 1 billion pesos in CETES at 92 days. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0242 GMT 10 Oct 95)

In a 9 October report datelined Cancun, the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat announced that the country's exports rose 50 percent from January to September of this year, compared to the same period last year. Secofi official Gabriela Frias made that statement, during the inauguration of the Second Textile Businessmen's Meeting that is sponsored by the National Foreign Trade Bank of Mexico. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0031 GMT 10 Oct 95)

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The Bank of Mexico is cited in a 9 October report datelined Mexico City, as announcing that the September inflation rate was 2.07 percent higher in August and added that the price of products went up 43.48 percent. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2356 GMT 9 Oct 95)

Bancomer [Bank of Commerce] and Bank of America, announced today the syndication [sindicacion] of a commercial paper program in the United States for $225 million. Said program will be guaranteed by a letter of credit issued by the Bank of Montreal. The program will be in effect for one year. On another matter, Bancomer announced that it was able to restructure 42,052 mortgage loans in Investment Units. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 9 Oct 95 p 16)

Business Coordinating Council President Hector Larios Santillan stated during an interview that this year the amount to be paid for the public and private foreign debt will total $21.8 billion. He added that in 1996 the amount to be paid will be $11.1 billion. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 9 Oct 95 p 12)

Augusto Escalante, Mortgage Director of the National Bank of Mexico, has said that in 1994 his bank granted 25,000 mortgage loans, totaling 3.5 billion new pesos, but so far this year this activity is "dead," because of the country's economic crisis. Figures by the Housing Operation and Banking Financing Fund [Fondo de Operacion y Financiamiento Bancario a la Vivienda — FOVI] indicated that the market for middle and residential housing went from 120,000 housing in 1994 to close to 60,000 this year. Ignacio Deschamps, Bancomer mortgage planning and marketing director, said that his bank has not closed its doors to these kinds of loans. After acknowledging Bancomer has established very stringent requirements, he added that from January to September 1995 his bank has granted close to 8,000 mortgage loans. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 9 Oct p 8)

The Finance and Public Credit Secretariat yesterday corrected the figures of August's commercial balance surplus, which totaled $708 million rather than the $760 million mentioned in preliminary reports. As a result, the commercial surplus from January to August of this year totaled $4.490 billion. Moreover, manufacturing exports rose to $19.828 billion, which represents a 32.2 percent increase. The sales abroad by the sector not related to the assembly plants rose to $22.391 billion, or a 46.7 percent increase. Oil exports during this period totaled $5.783 billion and exports of farm products rose to $3.135 billion compared to the same period last year. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 10 Oct 95 p 56)

Banking sources have reported that by the end of September the foreign debt of Mexican banks amounted to $26 billion, that is, about $1 billion higher than by the close of December 1994. Meanwhile, the National Banking and Securities Commission has reported that by 5 October 1,082,747 loans were rescheduled under the terms of the Agreement for Immediate Support to Bank Debtors, Ade. This represents 51.3 percent of the total 2.11 million expected total to be rescheduled. Of the rescheduling, 865,157 cases correspond to credit card debts, 102,370 cases to mortgage loans, and 63,776 cases to company loans. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 10 Oct 95 p 8)

Carlos Bazdresch, director general of the National Council for Science and Technology, Conacyt, has announced that this organization will receive a budget of nearly 200 million new pesos this year. This is the highest budget in its history. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 10 Oct 95 p 22)

The Bank of Mexico has reported that inflation increased by 2.07 percent in September establishing the increase in the annual consumer price index at 43.48 percent. Accumulated inflation from January to September 1995 is 40.73 percent. The inflation rate from September 1994 to September 1995 is 46.7 percent. The price of the family basket increased 1.77 percent in September in comparison to August. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 10 Oct 95 p 21)

The Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit has reported that the country's foreign trade balance registered a surplus from January to August 1995. Total exports increased by 32.5 percent while total imports dropped by 7.8 percent. The secretariat added that the trade surplus amounted to $708 million in August 1995 compared to a $1.717 billion deficit in August 1994. The January to August 1995 surplus is $4.49 billion in comparison to a $12.11 billion deficit during the same period in 1994. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 10 Oct 95 p 24)

Thirty-five Mennonite communities from Durango State will export 25 tons of dairy products to Cuba every three months starting this month. This will yield an annual revenue of $2.9 million new pesos. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 11 Oct 94 p 18)

Antonio Pascual Feria, president of the Union of Pharmacy Owners of the Valley of Mexico, has reported that by the first quarter of 1995 sales in the pharmacy sector dropped by 50 percent, 3,000 small outlets closed, and 15,000 jobs were lost. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 11 Oct 95 p 22)

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Decio de Maria Serrano, official of the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development, has reported that so far this year 5,392 new companies exported products, but more than 4,000 companies that had exported in 1994 did not do so during the first six months. He added that of the $51.5 billion new pesos in exported goods as of August, $20 billion new pesos were contributed by the maquila [assembly plant] industry. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 11 Oct 95 p 24)

According to a Mexico City, 11 October datelined report Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) credits to Mexico have surpassed $1 billion in 1995, which shows the efforts that international financial institutions are conducting to support the country's economic reforms. In a communique, the IDB reported that in June 1995, credits were approved for $1.250 billion, which surpassed the amount given in 1994, which was $1.064. The document said that Mexico has received a total of 148 credits from the IDB, for a total of $10.9 billion, which makes the country the second largest debtor, after Brazil. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0908 GMT 11 Oct 95)

The Bank of Mexico, Banxico, has reported that Mexican international reserves totaled $14.792 billion by 6 October, which shows an increase of $93 million compared to the level registered on 29 September, according to an 11 October report datelined Mexico City. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1530 GMT 11 Oct 95)

Sixty percent of the 386 credit unions operating in the financial system are confronting some type of problem that puts their viability and permanence at risk, according to a source from the National Banking and Securities Commission, CNBV. The source said that in addition to the high level of arrears, the sector faces problems due to negative balance of capital, as well as noncompliance with the minimum capital demanded by law. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 11 Oct 95 p 8)

The Mexican Government has decided to establish "definite" compensatory quotas of 81.4 percent against the import of steel pipes from the United States, after it was confirmed that they were "harming" the national industry, the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development announced on 10 October. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 11 Oct 95 p 53)

Exports from Mexico City and the states of Hidalgo, Mexico, Queretaro and Michoacan increased 15 percent less than in the rest of the country. Mexico City Mayor Oscar Espinosa noted the need to conduct studies and adopt measures to reactivate the economy in those areas, where exports increased 25 percent, while in the rest of the countries the increase was 40 percent. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 12 Oct 95 p 47)

The total of foreign investments in variable income instruments and government domestic debt bonds by the end of the third quarter was $31,712,67 million, 42.85 percent less than in December 1994. According to the Mexican Securities Exchange, BMV, the loss of $23,784,07 million in foreign investments in shares of Mexican enterprises and government bonds this year "resulted from variations in the exchange rate of the peso with regard to the dollar." (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 12 Oct 95 p 53)

During the first seven months of the year, exports of mining products have increased 88 percent, from $101.8 million in 1994 to $191.7 million in 1995. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO (ANALISIS Supplement) in Spanish 12 Oct 95 p 21A)

Foreign investments in the stock exchange market by September of this year dropped 7.41 percent compared to August. According to the BMV, the total of foreign capital in the stock exchange market in September totaled $26.165 billion. It was also reported that foreign investments in foreign debt bonds in September totaled $6.547 billion, a drop of $800 million. (Mexico City Radio Red Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Oct 95)

The National Foreign Trade Bank of Mexico, Bancomext, might be left holding $5 billion because it has been unable to place part of its annual financing program. Bancomext Director Enrique Vilatela admitted that despite having "an aggressive program," so far this year, it has only channeled $6 billion of the programmed $11 billion. He also said the bank will increasingly operate as an all-purpose bank in order to facilitate financing to a greater number of firms. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 12 Oct 95 p 19)

Monterrey, Nuevo Leon — Mercedes Benz Mexico will close 1995 with a total production of 3,500 units, which represents an approximately 40 percent reduction compared to the 12,000 autos and trucks produced in 1994. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 13 Oct 95 p 15)

Mario Abedrop, president of the China-Mexico Council of the Mexican Businessmen's Council for International Affairs, said that Mexico's trade deficit with China will reach $500 million this year, adding that this deficit will continue for the next three or four years. He said bilateral Mexican-Chinese trade will amount to approximately $800 million. He urged Mexican businessmen to invest in China, mentioning the textile, fishing, and petroleum industries as possible areas of

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interest. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 13 Oct 95 p 24)

The Dexel business group and the Refining Subsidiary of Mexican Petroleum, Pemex, have signed contracts for the supply of heavy fuel oil worth more than 400 million new pesos annually. With the signing of these contracts and those previously signed with the Federal Electoral Commission and Sicartsa, Pemex has guaranteed the sale of 82 percent of the heavy fuel oil it produces. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 13 Oct 95 p 13)

According to reports of the National Banking and Securities Commission, the 44 firms that control currency exchange houses have increased their profits by 204.66 percent in the first half of 1995 compared to the same period in 1994. They state that under the system of free-floating parity established by the monetary authorities after the December devaluation, these establishments registered profits of 565 million new pesos in the first half of 1995. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 13 Oct 95 p 53)

An internal report of the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat revealed that Mexico continues to maintain a trade deficit with Europe. In the first half of 1995, Mexico exported $1.320 billion worth of merchandise to Europe while imports reached $2.908 billion. The largest trade deficit was with Germany, exporting $171 million worth of products and importing $1.150 billion. In this same period, Mexico registered the following trade deficits: $210 million with France; $291 million with Italy; $43 million deficit with the United Kingdom; a $33 million deficit with Austria; $71 million with Sweden; $15 million with the Netherlands; and $29 million with the countries of the former Soviet Union. The only trade surplus was with Spain, amounting to $38 million. The devaluation of the peso against the dollar has not led to an increase in exports to Europe. They remain at practically the same levels as last year. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 13 Oct 95 p 56)

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Guatemala

ODHA Reports 1,048 Murders in 1995

96P20023A San Jose LA NACION in Spanish
13 Oct 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Guatemala, 13 Oct (ACAN-EFE) — According to the Human Rights Office of the Archbishopric (ODHA), at least 1,048 murders have been committed in Guatemala in 1995.

The humanitarian institution of the Catholic Church told ACAN-EFE that among the total of victims, 171 extrajudicial executions were carried out by paramilitary groups.

According to ODHA, the months with the highest number of recorded extrajudicial murders were March (25), May (30), and July (25), while 13 murders were recorded in the first nine days of October.

Regarding common crimes, the Office of the Archbishopric ranked July and August as the most violent months with 110 and 131 murders respectively.

The ODHA said that between 1 January and 9 October, there had been 1,403 human rights violations, the majority committed in August (181), July (177), May (151), and January (148).

Honduras

New Dialogue Between EU, Central America

95CA0408A San Jose LA NACION in Spanish
14 Sep 95

[Article: "Regions Seek To Adapt New Political and Economic Dialogue"; received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tegucigalpa, 14 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Central America and the European Union (EU) are seeking to adapt their new political and economic dialogue to changes taking place in both regions, regions that have cooperated very closely for 10 years, one European diplomat observed yesterday (Wednesday).

Speaking in Tegucigalpa, the European Union's ambassador for Central America, Vittorino Alloco of Italy, noted that the relationship between Europe and Central America is undergoing change and that the dialogue should conform to the new circumstances.

It is a dialogue that "must be continued, improved upon and carried further, while incorporating the political element," Alloco said at a press conference. Alloco was accompanied by other European ambassadors, including Jose Manuel Lopez Barron from Spain, who will head the EU during the second half of 1995.

Alloco arrived in Tegucigalpa on Monday to meet with Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina and other officials for the purpose of analyzing the relationship between the EU and Central America, including the evolution of that relationship and cooperation.

The ambassador observed that both European and Central American foreign ministers have recognized "the great contribution made by the EU" to the process of pacification and development in Central America."

Lopez Barron told ACAN-EFE that such processes as political stabilization and the modernization of government now being promoted by governments "are moving forward," although perhaps not with all desirable speed.

He added that Spain and the United States are satisfied with the efforts being made by governments to search for solutions to economic, political, and social problems.

Alloco observed that the EU and Central America are moving "toward greater integration" and that, with respect to the issue of extending cooperation to the nations of the isthmus, a new "triangular" plan is being worked out involving the government, civil society, and the market.

He noted that this year, EU cooperation will exceed 230 million ECU's [European accounting units]—some $300 million—in addition to bilateral aid.

Inter-Central American Trade Increases

95CA0411A San Jose LA NACION in Spanish
22 Sep 95

[Article: "Trade in Central America Increases by $640 Million"; received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Trade among Central American nations has risen from $640 million to $1.4 billion over the past five years, Arnoldo Rodas, head of the Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), reported yesterday (Thursday).

Rodas emphasized that the increase reflects the revival of the Central American Common Market, with trade totaling as much as $1.6 billion this year.

The growth in trade means that new trade guidelines will be needed for the zone, and as a result of this economic ministers have passed a regulation governing the origin of goods and other issues.

Rodas met in Honduras this week with Ministers of Economy and Foreign Relations Fernando Garcia and Delmer Urbizo Panting and Central Bank President Hugo Noe Pino for the purpose of analyzing progress

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on economic integration and other problems faced by the Central American nations.

Nicaragua

Salvadoran Defense Minister: Meeting 'Excellent'

PA1710030795 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 12 Oct 95

[From the "National Newscast" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Salvadoran Defense Minister General Humberto Corado Figueroa today described a meeting with Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro as historic and excellent. Corado and Chamorro met at the Nicaraguan Presidency in the presence of Nicaraguan Army Commander Gen. Joaquin Cuadra and staff members of the two countries' armies.

[Begin Corado recording] I think that, from a working viewpoint, this meeting is, not only excellent but historic, and gives us an opportunity to keep strengthening Central America's integration from a purely military viewpoint. From now on, cooperation between the two countries will be smoother and closer. It will directly benefit the stability and peace we all want for our region until we reach a stage of harmony and freedom for our fellow citizens, who need it so much. [end recording]

[Begin Chamorro recording] I am very pleased and happy with this meeting, because this means the unity of Central America and between the Army generals, who always seek the good of all of Central America. [end recording]

Gen. Corado announced that military attache offices will be opened in each of the two countries to handle common problems and objectives and will be able to solve them directly.

Panama

President: Subic Bay Experience 'Serves as an Example'

PA1610190795 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 16 Oct 95 p 42

[FBIS Translated Text] Panamanian President Ernesto Perez Balladares has declared that success in the revamping of the U.S. military bases will depend to a great extent on the combined effort of looking for persons and businesses which have the best options of establishing themselves in Panama, given their interests, which should prevail when they make that approach.

The president delivered these words while hosting a dinner in "Los Tamarindos" room of the Palace of the Herons, for Richard Gordon, administrator of the Metropolitan Authority of Subic Bay (Philippines), who is visiting the country in response to an invitation made by President Perez Balladares during his recent Asian tour.

The president said that the most inspiring experience for the entourage that accompanied him on that tour was the visit to the Subic Bay installations in the Philippines, because they were able to see in practice what "we as government and Panamanians had only thought about and dreamed could be done with many of the installations that are about to revert to Panama."

He underscored that Richard Gordon had the vision and political leadership of taking areas that were virtually abandoned, as opposed to ours, from one day to the next and organizing people of the community and neighboring areas to keep the installations from being destroyed and vandalized.

He said it was an extraordinary success because he did so, asking all Philippines to voluntarily lend their work, because there was no immediate incentive other than the hope of achieving his proposal of transforming the military areas into "Centers of Exportation" of medium and light industry to replace the 42,000 direct and indirect jobs provided by the U.S. military installations.

He noted that that decision allowed maintaining the installations for a prudential period of time, during which Gordon dedicated himself tirelessly to promoting them, to identifying companies with the best option to use such areas, and to explaining why it was important that they be established in Subic Bay.

He said that effort serves as an example, because it goes contrary to many of the experiences of many of us "who sometimes feel we have somewhat of a unique and special position, in which we have to do virtually nothing for people to establish themselves in Panama."

He said that effort has managed to recover permanent and better paying jobs for approximately 18,000 direct positions in two years, which speaks very well of that experience and Richard Gordon's leadership.

"I think that lesson for me and I am certain that for all of those persons who accompanied me on that trip, was one of the most edifying experiences, because it serves as an example for all Panamanians," the president stated.

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ARI Administrator Suggests Stay of Sherman, Howard Bases

PA1610172695 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 15 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Juan Manuel Diaz C.]

[FBIS Translated Text] The permanence of two U.S. military bases for 10 years after the expiration of the Canal Treaties will permit a better development of the reverted areas, Nicolas Ardito Barletta, administrator of the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI), said yesterday.

One day after the Executive Branch designated a commission to explore the convenience of holding negotiations with the United States on the extension of Southern Command bases, Ardito Barletta considered that this may be a factor to ensure that foreign investors will have greater confidence to establish themselves in the reverted areas.

Nevertheless, he said that this extended stay should only be temporary and that during this period, military installations may be used jointly.

The ARI administrator highlighted that if Fort Sherman and Howard Air Force Base stay beyond the year 2000, they may also contribute to increase tourism and may be used to receive flights.

The official explained that the stay of two bases may be related to the U.S. interest to fight drug trafficking and related activities.

Meanwhile, Raul Leis, former Papa Egoro Movement [MPE] secretary general, stated that the government's attitude regarding the base issue "contradicts" the nationalist proclamations of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD).

He indicated that the PRD political doctrine evidences a "contradiction" because they were the ones who proposed the departure of military bases by the year 2000 and they now want the bases to stay.

Government Deplores Arnulfists' Stand on Talks for Bases

PA1710015895 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Oct 95

[From the "Telemetro Reports" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Panamanian Government has released a communique deploring the Arnulfist Party's refusal of a proposal to participate in exploratory talks on the possibility of having the U.S. military presence in Panama after the year 2,000. According to the communique, the Arnulfists rejected a historic opportunity to participate in an event which is extremely relevant for all Panamanians.

[Begin Foreign Ministry spokesman Eric Rodriguez Auerbach recording] The party has turned down a very special opportunity in this historic crossroads to debate, face-to-face with the North Americans, the possibility of somehow negotiating the military presence after 31 December 1999 at noon. The government, however, guarantees the country that it will continue to sponsor the broadest possible opening for debate and talks to consult the majority of the people on this subject, which is so important for all Panamanians. [end recording]

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the government will continue to hold consultations on this subject apart from all political interests and partyism. The Ministry added that the Arnulfist Party's stand is deplored.

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Bolivia

President Views Privatization, State of Emergency

BR1310162395 Groot-Bijgaarden DE STANDAARD in Dutch 13 Oct 95 p 7

[Report on interview with President Sanchez de Lozada by Francis Van Den Berghe in Brussels; date not given: "Belgium Increases Development Aid to Bolivia Considerably — President Sanchez de Lozada Has His Eye on Investors"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels — Belgian development aid to Bolivia will be increased in the coming two years by half, to 300 million Belgian francs [BFr] a year. This was agreed yesterday by both countries at the start of a two-day visit by Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada to Belgium. In an interview with DE STANDAARD the head of state stressed that development aid from Belgium and the EU and attracting investors for the Bolivian privatization program were the main points of his visit. He also said that the state of emergency in his country would be lifted on 15 October.

"Belgium and the EU are exceptionally important for Bolivia's bilateral development aid," said Sanchez de Lozada, who visited Italy and France earlier this week. He said he was pleased with the framework agreements signed yesterday with Belgium on development aid, and with the EIB (European Investment Bank) on rules for loans to Bolivia.

The mixed Belgian-Bolivian commission also decided yesterday that Belgian development aid for 1996-1998 would be increased from BFr200 million to BFr300 million a year. The Belgian-Bolivian agreements were signed by Belgian Secretary of State for Development Cooperation Reginald Moreels and Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar Quiroga. Bolivia is one of the countries where Belgium is concentrating its development cooperation.

Investing

Sanchez de Lozada was received by King Albert II and EU Commission President Jacques Santer yesterday and will visit Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene today. Sanchez de Lozada stressed that he wanted to attract investors to "participate in the economic and social process in Bolivia."

His attention is concentrated on the entry of investors "into the capitalization program," the privatization of Bolivian state enterprises. By the end of 1996 the five big state monopolies (electricity, telecommunications, oil and natural gas, airlines and railways, mines and smelteries) must be privatized.

Capitalization

The fact that the president calls the privatization "capitalization" is connected with the original formula. In it the capital of the state firms offered for sale will be doubled by offering new shares. Purchasers will get more than half and also control over the enterprises. The shares which now belong to the state will be put in a pension fund, and a small part will be offered to workers. The Bolivian Government sees this formula as a way to offer more inhabitants a pension. The companies' debts with the state will be written off, while debts with banks and international institutions will remain.

Electricity has already been privatized. The power stations went to three U.S. companies and distribution to a Chilean company. Telecommunications have been privatized too. "That one went to Italians," said the president. The Italian state company STET got half the shares of Bolivia's state company Entel with an offer of $610 million, three and a half times higher than the offer by Spain's Telefonica and twice that by U.S. MCI.

This month it is the turn of the airline Lloyd Aereo Bolivia, in November it is the railways, and "before the end of this year Comibol's mines and smelteries," said the president.

State of Emergency

The biggest chunk is the oil and natural gas company YFPB. A price ticket of between $500 million and $1 billion is attached to this privatization. "It is an extremely important business," said Sanchez de Lozada. "It will come last." Because it depends on the construction of the natural gas pipeline to Brazil's Sao Paulo, its big market. "Concrete steps have been taken" in that direction, said the president.

The privatization and cutback policies have led to tension in Bolivia. They provoked opposition from teachers and trade unions in particular. On 18 April Sanchez de Lozada decreed the state of emergency "to restore social peace."

The president stressed that the opposition came from "small groups." "When people see that the process is working, that there is no mass unemployment because of it, that there is investment, then we will get a consensus," he said.

The state of emergency "will be lifted on 15 October. We hope that in the future it will no longer be necessary and that the municipal elections of 3 December can take place peacefully," he said.

He said these elections were extremely important, because his decentralization policies had given local authorities "more funds but also more responsibilities."

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Communications Minister Announces End of State of Siege

PY1610123795 La Paz Radio Cadena Nacional Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After [words indistinct] of enforcement, the government officially announced the lifting of the state of siege throughout the nation. The announcement was made by Social Communications Minister Irving Alcaraz. The state of siege was an exceptional measure. Over the past few decades it has not been implemented, except during the administration of President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

Brazil

Mrs. Clinton: Social Programs 'Strengthen' Democracy

PY1610210695 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1830 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Report by Biaggio Talento]

[FBIS Translated Text] Salvador, 16 Oct (AE) — U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton said that she is taking a positive image of Brazil with her after her two-day visit to Brasilia and Salvador. "I was impressed with Brazil's progress in facing challenges," she said a few minutes before leaving the Tsylla Balbino Maternity Hospital, which assists destitute mothers and has an agreement with the U.S. Government.

She emphasized the stability of the Brazilian economy and President Fernando Henrique Cardoso's energy. She extended the praise to Bahia Governor Paulo Souto (Liberal Front Party), and Salvador Mayor Lidice da Mata (Brazilian Social Democracy Party). Mrs. Clinton said the three officials are always ready to face and solve problems. Regarding the social programs she visited, she pointed out the importance of the coordinators' strategy, which focuses on investing in people who belong to the poorest communities in the country "so as to enable them to look after their own families."

Before leaving Salvador, Mrs. Clinton visited this morning the facilities of the Tsylla Balbino Maternity Hospital and then met with Souto and Bahia Health Secretary Jose Maria de Magalhaes, as well as with hospital directors and doctors. For one hour, she listened to reports on programs for assistance to destitute mothers, which ranges from delivery to family planning. Mrs. Clinton even encouraged U.S. journalists to ask questions about the hospital and said that the United States is engaged in assisting programs, in any part of the world, that seek to reduce infantile mortality and create social stability.

The U.S. First Lady noted the courageous assistance granted by the Tsylla Balbino Maternity Hospital and reiterated that Americans must learn that, in order to strengthen democracies, it is necessary to support programs such as those developed at that hospital.

Mrs. Clinton's visit to Bahia, however, was not just a working visit. On 15 October, she visited the 18th century Sao Francisco Church, which is considered Brazil's main baroque monument and contains carvings covered in gold leaf. She then visited Pelourinho Square, where she witnessed the Olundun samba group's rehearsal. At the request of U.S. security, which deployed 150 men to the site and placed them at strategic points inside Salvador's Historic Center, those attending the samba rehearsal had to stay, along with the Brazilian journalists, some 30 meters from the site.

Master Neguinho do Samba invited Mrs Clinton to play one of the group's drums. Although off beat, she took the risk of playing a little. She then watched the rehearsal and tried to follow the rhythm, rather awkwardly, but always smiling. Mrs. Clinton had dinner at the Azevedo Fernandes School Complex, in Pelourinho District. The menu, which consisted of typical Bahian food, was prepared by one of the most famous Bahian restaurants, the Tempero da Dada restaurnt.

The U.S. First Lady said that she enjoyed herself very much and learned a lot during her visit to Brazil. She said that her visit to Brasilia was informative and warm. She made a point of emphasizing, however, that she was charmed by Bahia's capital. "Salvador is one of the most beautiful cities I have ever visited, and I was very touched by the warm reception the local people gave me," she said. Mrs. Clinton and her entourage left Salvador early in the afternoon for Asuncion, Paraguay.

Media Reaction to U.S. First Lady's Visit

PY1710015295

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a roundup of Brazilian media reaction to U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's 14-15 October visit to Brazil as of 16 October.

Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese at 1836 GMT on 11 October carries a 400-word report by correspondent Paulo Sotero on Hillary Clinton's visit to Brazil. Sotero begins his report by noting that "like Brazilian First Lady Ruth Cardoso, Hillary Rodham Clinton would hardly fit the role that is traditionally assigned to the wives of heads of government." He points out that before moving to the White House, this "talented, successful attorney" had "already earned the respect of the NGO's for her actions to promote the rights of women and children."

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Sotero adds that "unlike the Brazilian first lady, Mrs. Clinton takes pleasure in performing her public duties, although not always with the best results." He goes on to say that many analysts have "blamed" Mrs. Clinton for the "worst political defeat" of her husband's administration, the "failure" to reform the U.S. health care system.

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese on 12 October, in its "Panel" gossip column in Section 1 page 4, carries a 40-word report noting that "although the [opposition] Workers Party [PT], has not been able to reach Planalto Palace, it is moving closer to the White House: The U.S. Embassy has invited PT Senators Marta Suplicy, Benedita da Silva, and Marina Silva to have lunch with First Lady Hillary Clinton on 15 October."

Madrid EFE in Spanish at 2016 GMT on 13 October, in a 340-word report, says that the U.S. First Lady's visit to Brazil "has given rise to great expectations" in the country, where Hillary Clinton will visit child support organizations and meet with congresswomen. The report notes that the "Brazilian press" views Hillary Clinton's visit as "'more important' than the visits by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma."

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese on 14 October publishes in Section 1 on page 2 a 400-word commentary by Josias de Souza entitled "Hillary and Ruth" (filed as PY1610235595). De Souza describes Mrs. Clinton as an "outstanding professional" who has "earned the respect of her fellow countrymen." Noting that while she has specialized in "defending the rights of children," on this visit the Hillary Clinton Brazilians will be meeting is "just the woman who shares Bill Clinton's bed." De Souza points out that "her maiden name has been absorbed by a tradition that turns first ladies into ornamental figures." De Souza comments on the "heated controversy" surrounding Mrs. Clinton's efforts to reform the U.S. health care system, which, she asserts, "virtually crushed the true Hillary." De Souza concludes: "Looking resigned, she decided to engage in more pleasant activities. She became a social tourist."

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese on 14 October, in Section 1 page 4, carries a 400-word report by Daniela Pinheiro on Hillary Clinton's visit to Brazil entitled "First Lady To Keep Social and Cultural Agenda." The report notes that "in view of the fact that she is coming to Brazil without her husband, U.S. President Bill Clinton, the entire agenda of the U.S. First Lady consists of activities that would not be conducive to establishing any serious, formal commitment between the two countries." The report adds that Mrs. Clinton's agenda includes cultural and social activities, "two areas that the U.S. First Lady has taken upon herself to promote."

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese on 15 October publishes on page 25 a 425-word unattributed commentary entitled "Two Unusual First Ladies" (filed as PY1510231795). The commentary compares Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Cardoso, noting that the two "have much more in common than just being the first ladies of their respective countries." The commentary highlights the academic and professional accomplishments of both women, pointing out that they have both "refused to comply with the protocol role assigned to the president's wife." The commentary remarks that Hillary Clinton's "independent attitude" has caused her to be "widely criticized by conservative groups." In conclusion, the commentary notes that Mrs. Clinton "tirelessly fought" for the U.S. health system reform in an effort to "serve the interests of the poor people."

Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese at 0042 GMT on 16 October carries a 425-word report by correspondent Isabel Braga on Hillary Clinton's meeting with President and Mrs. Cardoso (filed as PY1610025295). The report cites Brazilian presidential spokesman Sergio Amaral, who noted that the meeting was conducted in a "cordial tone." The report adds that "some of those present" at the meeting said that Mrs. Clinton "avoided touching on any controversial issues."

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese on 16 October carries on page 10 a 450-word report entitled "Hillary Visits Outskirts of Salvador" by Marcia Carmo. Highlighting Mrs. Clinton's activities, the report notes that she had lunch with 26 prominent Brazilian women, including opposition Workers Party Senator Benedita da Silva. The report quotes Sen. da Silva as saying: "The prevailing impression about us out there is that although we have all kinds of problems, we are not doing anything about them. Mrs. Hillary Clinton's visit has been instrumental in showing that we do have initiative."

Maciel To Attend Nonaligned Conference in Colombia

PY1710050495 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Luis Eduardo Magalhaes, president of the Chamber of Deputies, will for the first time serve tomorrow as acting president of the Republic. Magalhaes will serve as acting president of the Republic for seven hours, replacing Vice President Marco Maciel, who will leave tomorrow for Colombia to attend the 10th conference of nonaligned countries.

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Palestinian Leader 'Arafat To Arrive 16 Oct

PY1610115795 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Government Head Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Brazil today for a 24-hour visit. He will be welcomed with presidential honors and will hold meetings with the presidents of the Chamber of Deputies and of the Senate, and with President Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

'Arafat has said he hopes to give considerable thrust to cooperation agreements, and that he expects Brazilian investments in the emerging Palestinian market.

Official Outlines Agenda for 'Arafat Visit

PY1710052095 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is scheduled to arrive in Brazil tomorrow on a 21-hour visit. This will be 'Arafat's first visit to South America.

'Arafat will keep the following schedule: At 1000, he will visit the presidents of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies; at 1100, he will visit Brasilia Governor Cristovam Buarque; and right after this meeting, 'Arafat will lunch with leaders of the Palestinian community in Brasilia. At 1500, 'Arafat will pay a call on members of the Federal Supreme Court, where he will meet with Chief Justice Sepulveda Pertence. At 1820, 'Arafat will hold a private meeting with President Fernando Henrique Cardoso. 'Arafat and Cardoso will meet again at 1930, when Cardoso will host a dinner for the PLO leader, who is scheduled to leave Brazil for Colombia at 2200.

Upon announcing 'Arafat's agenda in Brasilia, Pedro Paulo Assuncao, chief of the Foreign Ministry Middle East Department, stated that 'Arafat's visit is of a strictly political nature and that no signing of documents is envisaged. He announced, however, some areas in which Brazil could cooperate with the Palestinians, citing a project that is being studied by the PLO and by the Brazilian Government:

[Begin Assuncao recording] Brazil could cooperate with the Palestinians to the extent of supporting the Palestinian efforts to expedite their socioeconomic recovery. During a recent visit to Palestine, members of a Brazilian exploratory mission identified several areas in which Brazil could cooperate with the Palestinians, such as agriculture, municipal administration, health, basic sanitation, and transport. At present, through the Brazilian Cooperation Agency [ABC], the Brazilian Government is studying the possiblity of setting up a cooperation program with the Palestinians, starting with a specific project, possibly in the area of health. [end recording]

Assuncao said 'Arafat's agenda is open, but he noted that the case of [Brazilian citizen] Lamia Maruf, who is serving time in an Israeli prison, will probably be discussed by 'Arafat and Cardoso:

[Begin Assuncao recording] Of course. That is a subjet of interest to both Brazil and the Palestinians. It is also a subject of interest for the peace process in the region. [end recording]

'Arafat is scheduled to leave Brazil tomorrow at 2200 for Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, where he will attend a meeting of nonaligned countries.

Journalist Freddy Krause will now comment on 'Arafat's visit:

[Begin Krause recording] 'Arafat's visit to Brazil is taking place at the very time in which the Israeli-Palestinian talks are gradually contributing to consolidating peace in the Middle East. Brazil, which played a key role in the creation of the state of Israel, has assigned great significance to the process of consolidating peace in the Middle East, to the point that in 1993 it was invited to attend in Washington the signing of the declaration of principles that marked the start of the peace process in the region.

In May of this year, Brazilian Foreign Minister Luiz Felipe Lampreia visited the Gaza Strip and carried a message of support from President Cardoso for the entire peace process. In addition to lending political support to the process, both in the UN Security Council and the UN general assemblies, Brazil is also prepared to provide on-site help to the Palestinians in the fields of health, public administration, infrastructural facilities, and other areas. Negotiations to this effect are expected to conclude in 1996. [end recording]

Chile

Personalities Describe U.S. First Lady

PY1710111395 Santiago LA SEGUNDA in Spanish 13 Oct 95 p 9

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Chilean women who saw Hillary Clinton in action at the Beijing and Copenhagen summits commented that "she strikes one as being very natural, assertive, and intelligent, neither tough nor gentle..." But not all were complimentary, some say she is too liberal.

Patricia Figueroa, UDI [Independent Democratic Union] regional representative, walked straight into Hillary

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Clinton in a passageway during the Women's Conference in Beijing. "I was with Maria Angelica Cristi and Marta Ehlers. All of a sudden there was a crowd of people in the passageway. The bodyguards were ushering people away to let Hillary Clinton by. She got upset and told her men to stop."

Without hesitation, Deputy Cristi took advantage of the occasion and asked the First Lady if we could greet her. "We talked about Chile, about the Conference. The interesting thing about it was that it was a chat between women, not between authorities." According to Patricia, unexpectedly Hillary offered to have a picture taken with them.

The UDI leader said she found Mrs. Clinton "very friendly, feminine, capable, and with a strong character. She strongly upholds her beliefs. She is very bright but too liberal. If she were to channel all her power into upholding values such as life, she would be great." [passage omitted]

Antonieta Saa, PPD [Party for Democracy] deputy, who was invited to Beijing, believes Hillary "does not go unnoticed by anybody." What she liked most was the clear manner in which she referred to women's problems: "It is obvious she understands them and that her opinion is personal, not ruled by other interests."

She described her as being assertive, "neither tough nor gentle," and very human. "She doesn't try to seduce by rolling her eyes or flirting when making a speech."

Socialist Party Deputy Fanny Pollarolo believes Hillary Clinton has passed a "mental health" test. Pollarolo, a psychiatrist by profession, commented: "She does not need to visit a psychiatrist (and laughs). She is very sensitive; she combines common sense and feelings very well. She is a picture of mental health." She was impressed by her intellectual level, "but she is neither distant nor abstract. She talks about real life. I found it very interesting, the power of her words are accompanied by a natural and kind attitude."

We also wanted to include the opinion of a man. From New York Juan Somavia, Chilean ambassador before the UN, one of the few Chileans who has had the honor of spending 20 minutes with Hillary said: "I had a meeting with her after the Copenhagen summit. She wanted to know what had happened after it ended... She has a very attractive personality; she is very bright but at the same time is very modest. Her way of talking touches your heart and your reason It is easy to relate with her. I think she is a very complete woman."

Paper: 'Whitewater' 'Tarnished' Mrs. Clinton's Past

PY1610221395 Santiago LA SEGUNDA in Spanish 13 Oct 95 p 63

[By Ximena Perez Villamil]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The U.S. President is called "Billary Clinton."

The nickname, which began circulating in the 1980's when Bill Clinton was governor of Arkansas, is a reflection of the power his wife exercises.

He does not conceal it. When he was asked who he would like to have at his side when making very important decisions, the newly elected President answered without hesitation: "Hillary."

Hillary, a lawyer with honors from Yale University, who made her first political incursions within the Republican Party, played an active role in the appointment of his assistants. "Hillary has helped me in these appointments as in every decision I have made over the past 20 years, and I hope she keeps doing it," Bill said upon announcing his new cabinet.

Close to celebrating her 48th birthday, on 26 October, Hillary continues to use her maiden name (Rodham), which is unusual in the United States.

Tired of being asked what she would like to be called, the wife of then Arkansas governor solved the problem ingeniously: "I am the first lady, Bill the first man, and Zeke the first dog." [passage omitted]

The wife of post-feminism also knows of defeat.... [ellipses as published] The health reform plan, which was intended to provide assistance to people including unemployed women, on which project she worked nine months, was rejected by the Senate. The scandal surrounding Whitewater, a real estate company in Arkansas in which the Clintons were partners, and whose commercial relations a Senate commission is investigating, has tarnished her past.

Hillary is trying to recover her image and touring four Latin American countries, focusing on children and the rights of women.... [ellipses as published]

Contreras Submits Requests on Serving Sentence at Home

Prison Police Reject Petition

PY1710054095 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1950 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Santiago, 13 Oct (EFE) — The National Prison Police today rejected a petition by

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retired General Manuel Contreras' attorney for his client to serve his seven-year prison sentence for the death of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier in his home.

The decision was delivered by Trinidad Inostroza, head of the National Prison Police legal department, to the Santiago Appellate Court. Contreras' attorney Julio Tapia Falk was also informed about the decision.

Thus the court injunction submitted on Wednesday, 11 October, by Contreras' attorney will be declared inadmissible because National Prison Police Director Claudio Martinez answered Contreras' petition within the established deadline, according to Inostroza.

On 11 October the attorney of the former chief of the secret police filed a court injunction against Martinez for not having answered the petition submitted a few weeks before by attorney Tapia Falk.

On Tuesday, 10 October, the Supreme Court of Justice decided that on 23 October Contreras must leave the Naval Hospital in Talcahuano port and enter the Punta Peuco prison, located 40 km north of Santiago.

Contreras has avoided entering the prison by resorting to several legal resources and, upon failing, entered the Naval Hospital under the pretext of recurring cancer of the colon, for which he underwent surgery eight years ago.

The former officer tried to remain in this hospital by filing a court injunction that was rejected by the Supreme Court, which has established 23 October as the date for him to enter prison.

Contreras and Brigadier Pedro Espinoza, his right-hand man in the secret police service, were sentenced to seven and six years' imprisonment, respectively, for being considered the direct instigators of the murder of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and his U.S. assistant Ronnie Moffit.

Court: Injunction Request 'Inadmissible'

PY1710103695 Madrid EFE in Spanish
2135 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Santiago, 13 Oct (EFE) — The Santiago Appellate Court today declared inadmissible the request for a court injunction submitted by General Manuel Contreras, former Chilean secret police chief, who complained against his transfer to prison to serve his seven-year imprisonment term.

Contreras, condemned for being the instigator of the murders of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and his U.S. assistant, Ronnie Moffit, tried through several means to delay his stay at the Talcahuano Naval Hospital, where he sought refuge on 13 June 1995.

The ruling issued by the Appellate Court First Chamber has rejected Contreras' argument that the Punta Peuco special prison, located 40 km north of Santiago, does not fulfill the security conditions for his imprisonment.

Contreras had also complained against Prison Police Director Claudio Martinez for not responding to a petition to serve his sentence at home.

Nevertheless, the answer arrived today at the court and it was negative, given the fact that those sentenced cannot choose the place where they will serve their prison term.

On 10 October, the Supreme Court decided that on 23 October the former secret police chief must definitely leave the Naval Hospital to go to the Punta Peuco prison.

Brigadier Pedro Espinoza, who had been the number two man within the Chilean secret police, has been there since 20 June, after being sentenced to six years' imprisonment for the same crimes.

The sentences against Contreras and Espinoza and the delay in fulfilling them have prompted civilian-military tension, given the uneasiness displayed by the Army command, and for this reason it was considered "a bad trial."

The Appellate Court ruling has coincided with the absence from the country of Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet, who, on 1 October, began a visit to London, and today is visiting Malaysia. He is scheduled to return to the country by the end of the month, when Contreras will already be in prison.

Court Rejects Appeal on Police Director

PY1610171295 Santiago Universidad Catolica Television Internacional in Spanish
0100 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The First Chamber of the Appellate Court has rejected the appeal submitted by the lawyers of General Manuel Contreras, retired, against the National Prison Police director.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Gen. Manuel Contreras today completes 4 months of hospitalization at the Talachuano Naval Hospital.

Contreras' lawyers on 11 October submitted an appeal against the National Prison Police director because he had not responded to a request by Contreras' lawyers to allow Contreras to serve his sentence in his private residence. [passage omitted]

Finally, the First Chamber of the Appellate Court unanimously rejected the appeal by three votes to zero

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on the grounds that this constitutional proceeding cannot be interpreted as a new instance on a case on which the Supreme Court has already ruled.

It is believed that in the next few hours the defense will submit a new appeal seeking to delay Gen. Contreras' transfer to the Punta Peuco jail beyond 23 October. [end recording]

Colombia

Samper Addresses Letter to Clinton on Restrictive Measures

PA1610230595 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Caracol Network in Spanish 2206 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Report by Edgar Artunduaga from Bariloche, Argentina]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, Argentina — Colombian President Ernesto Samper has addressed a letter to U.S. President William Clinton pointing out the deep social repercussions of a U.S. Senate's probable decision to modify the commercial penalties imposed on the banana-producing countries that have an agreement with the European Union. The penalties affecting the fruit on which thousands of families of the Uraba area depend could negatively affect the country's stability and social peace, Samper said.

The letter, disclosed for us here in Bariloche, says that a restriction in the production [words indistinct] will have fateful consequences and cause a social polarization that would lead the peasants in this extensive area in Uraba to become easy prey for criminal organizations. If the existing mechanism is affected, however slightly, hundreds of thousands of peasants would have to resort to illegal activities that have so much harmed the institutions and mankind's health.

In addition, a suspension of the preferences would be seen as a discouragement of the efforts that [words indistinct] has been carrying out to fight drug trafficking effectively. My government and the Colombian people expect the U.S. Government and Congress to understand the social complications that the enforcement of (?more) restrictive measures would have in the area. Nevertheless, we hope that this will not happen because, knowing the democratic and social justice values that inspire the Clinton administration, we expect a sign of solidarity on its part.

Office of Prosecutor Arrests Cancino's Attacker

PA1310145595 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Oct 95

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Early this morning, the Office of the Prosecutor captured one of the individuals who allegedly attacked attorney Antonio Jose Cancino. During a special operation of the Office of the Prosecutor's technical force and thanks to an informer, Ivan Dario Quintero Oquendo's composite sketch was prepared. An arrest warrant was issued against Quintero for murdering Cancino's two bodyguards. Quintero was captured in (Altos de Casuca), having military clothing in his possession. According to initial reports, he apparently is a member of the People's Militias.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] I believe they are following the right track. [end recording]

Authorities Secure Cartagena Prior to Nonaligned Summit

PA1310130295 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Oct 95

[Report by William Calderon; from the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It looks as if the Armed Forces have taken over Cartagena as they work to secure the city in the run-up to the Nonaligned summit. A marine is posted about every 50 meters on the city's main streets. Control at the Caribe, Hilton, Santa Clara, and America Hotels — where the majority of presidents attending the summit will stay — is in the hands of the police, the Department of Administrative Security, and the Army. A total of 3,500 men will be responsible for ensuring the safety of the presidents during the summit. The Convention Center, the Naval Club, and the airport are also areas of concern. All commercial flights scheduled for 17 October — when all the presidents will arrive in Cartagena — have been cancelled. Although the entire city is being secured, the main focus of attention is on the Cartagena Convention Center, where the official delegations will spend the most time.

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Forum for Unity Participants Approve Provisional Council

PA1510120695 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 12 Oct 95 p 14

[Report by Matilde Perez, Gaspar Morquecho, and Elio Henriquez]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] San Cristobal de las Casas, 11 Oct — The 243 delegates of 150 political and social organizations in the country who have participated in the first Forum for Unity and National Dialogue have approved by consensus the creation of a provisional council to sponsor the dialogue and national unity.

The list is headed by Subcommander Marcos, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano, chairman of the Foundation for Democracy, and Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

Jorge Gleason, a member of the National Council of Representatives to the National Democratic Convention, presented the proposal and has said: "We must walk out of here with something in our hands; we cannot leave disorganized." He has said the commission "has no limits and excludes no one. The names were proposed taking into consideration their representative and plural character."

He added that the council will sponsor at the national level the creation of a Broad Opposition Front. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, the assembly stated its support for the struggle waged by the Sutaur [Single Union of Route 100 Urban Passenger Bus Workers]; agreed to participate in the so-called Referendum for Liberty, convoked last month by eight organizations demanding a change to the national economic program; condemned the rape of three nurses from the Epidemiology Department's National Vaccination Program, in the Health Secretariat's second sanitary jurisdictional; and demanded punishment for the rapists, presumably members of the Mexican Army.

At the work tables, the Independent Proletarian Movement (MPI) proposed the creation of a social enterprise comprised of Sutaur workers and requested that this be included on the national agenda.

Regarding the national economic situation, 47 delegates from 30 organizations who participated in the table that analyzed the topic warned that the crisis "has yet to reach rock bottom and will continue to worsen." Therefore, they insisted on the creation of an alternate economic plan. Referring to this, Antonio Hernandez Torres said the results of a referendum for liberty carried out by the Civic Alliance will serve to demand that the federal government and Congress of the Union change the neoliberal economic model.

Discussing the topics of the militarization of Chiapas and various states in the country, the delegates said they advocate the creation of a special human rights committee that strictly supervises the Armed Forces, and they demanded the abolishment of the white guards and other repression corps. A strong debate occurred during the plenary when a proposal was submitted to defend "the human and work rights of the Armed Forces and police members." This was rejected almost unanimously—only eight votes in favor— amid jeering.

The delegates agreed to hold a second meeting on 20-21 November in Mexico City and a national mobilization for the defense of national sovereignty and independence and the search for unity, to demand a new plan for the nation.

Army Restructures Antisubversive Plan in Central Region

PA1410032995 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Oct 95 p 10A

[FBIS Translated Text] By 15 December, the Army will have completed its antisubversive program in the central part of the country. The 13th Army Brigade will be the core of a new division created to confront the narcoguerrilla problem.

The announcement was made on 5 October by General Rafael Hernandez Lopez during an event activating the Mobile Brigade No. 1 in Cundinamarca, a department that has been the target of a growing wave of kidnappings and of an attack by eight FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] guerrilla fronts.

Hernandez explained that even though details on the number of brigades that will fall under the new division have not yet been worked out, the 10th, 6th, 9th, 13th, and possibly the 1st Brigade will most likely be assigned to it; "yet it is still uncertain how many brigades will be assigned." According to Hernandez, with the creation of the new division, the reaction capability against subversive groups operating in the central part of the country will be enhanced tremendously, and policies aimed at restraining guerrilla activity will now fall under a single leadership.

The 5th Brigade is currently assigned to the 3rd Division; the 9th Brigade to the 4th Division; both the 10th and 13th Brigades fall under the Army Command (a training school); while the 1st Brigade is assigned the 2d Division.

The Army operates throughout the country with four divisions — Bucaramanga (2d Division), Cali (3d

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Division), Barranquilla (1st Division), and Villavicencio (4th Division) — each of which has jurisdiction over 21 brigades.

Likewise, there are several other units assigned to the Joint Eastern Command and the Joint Southern Command, both of which operate in cooperation with other state security agencies.

Two more mobile brigades also fall directly under the Army Command, but in the case of the new, smaller operative unit that began operating in Cundinamarca, an exception will be made and it will fall under the jurisdiction of the 13th Brigade.

Each division has an average of 23,500 soldiers, divided into four or five brigades depending of the particular situation of each region. In turn, these brigades depend on an Operations Command. Theoretically, during normal times, each of the brigades is capable of operating with at least 4,500 soldiers. Nevertheless, increasing violence has resulted in the need for a large number of soldiers in some brigades.

Brigade No. 1 Launched

Yesterday, at 1125 in the morning, Mobile Brigade No. 1 was officially presented at the main park in Fusagasuga.

Colonel Fernando Arteaga, Commander General of the 13th Brigade, handed the colors authorizing the brigade to begin operations in the department.

A military mood prevailed in the central park of the "city of flowers" when the drums started rolling close to the spot where the soldiers and 100 counterintelligence police officers stood. These officers had recently arrived to provide support in intelligence gathering operations aimed at fighting the eight guerrilla fronts, two mobile guerrilla groups, and the Bolivarian militia the FARC has been using to attack the department.

Over the past few months, the FARC has kidnapped former Minister Julio Cesar Sanchez, murdered Senator Raimundo Sojo in the region of Tequendama and harassed public security forces throughout the department.

The establishment of the brigade's 1,500-man command post in Fusagasuga was the result of a resolution issued on 23 September, when it was decided that the department's anti-guerrilla strategy was in need of reform.

Approximately 13,500 soldiers are currently operating in this department assigned to the 13th Brigade to which the 1,500 soldiers of the new mobile tactical unit will be added. Approximately 3,500 policemen are also operating in the region.

Colonel Alvaro Arango Salazar, Police Commander of Cundinamarca, confirmed that in addition to the four counterguerrilla patrols that have been transferred to the department, the National Police Directorate has also decided to reactivate all police posts that had been destroyed by the guerrillas.

The official explained that it will be the Army's responsibility to enter those communities such as Pesca, where there are no police stations to secure the zone and that the station would be set up afterward. In addition, the Santa Ines inspection posts in Sasaima will be remodeled and security in quipile will be reinforced.

The last antiguerrilla operation took place on Wednesday when the Army occupied three guerrilla training camps located in the mountains between the municipalities of Guasca and Junin.

During that operation, more than 1,500 rifle cartridges, claymore mines, booby traps, uniforms, food, and other assorted items were seized. The camps were used by the 53rd and 54th FARC fronts operating in the region.

Ecuador

Ministers Resign 'En Masse' To Give Freedom to President

PY1710020795 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0007 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 16 Oct (EFE) — Francisco Albornoz, Ecuadoran urban development and housing minister, reported today that the 14 Ecuadoran Government ministers submitted their resignation en masse to President Sixto Duran-Ballen to give him absolute freedom to renew his cabinet.

"We are willing to step down and give full freedom to the president" to choose his assistants during the last 10 months of his term which must conclude with a change of the executive branch on 10 August 1996, the minister said in remarks to the press.

The president "has not yet decided which resignations he will accept and which he will not," a press official from the Carondelet Presidential Palace told EFE.

Albornoz reported that the ministers expressed their "unanimous support, without fear" for the president, who is also facing a congressional election of a new vice president of the Republic.

Former Vice President Alberto Dahik resigned from his post and fled the country shortly after the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) issued a preventive arrest warrant against him, within the framework of a criminal action for supposed illegal use of discretionary funds.

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Duran-Ballen last Saturday expressed his intention to renew his cabinet either "totally or partially," and added that the designation of the new ministers will be made after the designation by Congress of the new vice president, which is scheduled to take place this week.

A total of 23 ministers have been renewed in Duran-Ballen's cabinet during his 38 months of government, in addition to the vice president, who tendered his resignation last Wednesday.

Of the 23 ministers who have been renewed — three of them due to the death of the incumbent — the last was Government (Interior) Minister Abraham Romero, who, without any explanation, resigned last week, becoming the third head of that state ministry to leave his post during the current term.

The national Congress has dismissed four of Duran-Ballen's ministers: Francisco Acosta (energy), Diego Paredes (foreign relations), and Cesar Robalino and Mauricio Pinto (finance). Furthermore, over the past few weeks, some deputies have threatened to impeach Galo Abril, current mines and energy minister.

Only four ministers have remained in their posts from the beginning, with 10 months to go before the completion of the four-year term of the administration: Alfredo Corral (labor), Mariano Gonzalez (agriculture and livestock), Pedro Lopez (public works), and Francisco Albornoz (urban development and housing).

Dahik Resignation Accepted; Congress Head Named Temporarily

PY1710013795 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 0028 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] All legislators present in Congress have accepted the resignation of economist Alberto Dahik, vice president — or, better said, former vice president — of Ecuador.

All legislators, then, have accepted Vice President Alberto Dahik's resignation. It has been a simple voting process, and the results are as follows:

[Begin recording] [Congress secretary] Mr. President, the decision of the 63 legislators present in Congress has been unanimous.

[Congress President Fabian Alarcon] No, I have already voted. I raised my hand. He has also voted. The result has been proclaimed by the secretary. Mr. Secretary, will you please disclose the results again?

[Congress secretary] The decision of the 63 legislators gathered in the hall has been unanimous.

[Alarcon] Messrs. legislators, consequently, the resignation of the vice president of the Republic, economist Alberto Dahik, has been accepted. Therefore, in compliance with the Constitution and laws currently in force, from this moment I temporarily assume the Vice Presidency of the Republic, until a vice president is definitively appointed for the period up to 10 August 1996. Deputy Franco Romero hereby assumes the position of acting president of the national Congress.

I request that a special congressional session be convened as soon as possible, in compliance with the laws and Constitution, so that this Congress may definitely appoint the vice president of the Republic. Therefore, it will be the duty of the president of Congress to announce, as soon as possible, the date on which the special congressional session he must summon will be held.

I wish to tell you, Messrs. Deputies, that only this issue could be included in today's order of business because Congress had to accept the resignation of the vice president. From the strictly formal and legal perspective, Congress could either accept or reject that resignation. Therefore, it could hardly include another issue in today's order of business. Therefore, I reject any insinuation in that respect. I abide exclusively by the Constitution and the laws. Therefore, Deputy Franco Romero, as acting president of Congress, will be in charge of announcing the date for the special session.

[Romero] Messrs. Deputies, I will immediately proceed to end this session and summon for tomorrow, as of 1600, the legislative commissions to a plenary session. I wish to inform you and the country that early tomorrow I will sign the document summoning the session to elect the new vice president of the Republic; this session will be called for Thursday, 19 October, from 1600. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Court President Receives Death Threats, Asks For Protection

PY1710020595 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2325 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 16 Oct (EFE) — Carlos Solorzano, president of the Ecuadoran Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), today informed General Manuel Rosero, chief of the National Police, that he and his relatives had received death threats.

Rosero told the media that his institution will step up security measures around the CSJ president and his relatives and that it will investigate the origin of the threats reported by Solorzano.

Shortly after he took over the case, in early September, involving the penal trial against Vice President Alberto Dahik, who has resigned, for the alleged misuse of discretionary funds, Solorzano was provided with a

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special National Police escort. This information was given to EFE by police spokesmen.

On Wednesday, 11 October, Solorzano issued a warrant of arrest for the preventive custody of Dahik, who, a few hours later, fled from the country and is currently in Costa Rica waiting for that country's government to grant him political asylum.

Moreover, the CSJ president is subject to alleged pressure, which he says he will not tolerate, to order the arrest of Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen due to a government decree that bars using banking information in the aforementioned trial, which Solorzano has termed a "great interference" in the administration of justice.

Court President Upholds State Branches' Independence

PY1710001295 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1946 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Quito, 16 Oct (EFE) — Carlos Solorzano, president of the Ecuadoran Supreme Court of Justice [CSJ], said today he will not accept interference that affects the independence of the judicial branch. He said this at a time when voices demanding that he order the arrest of Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen grow louder.

Solorzano said: "I do not accept internal or external interference," referring to the local demands and the possibility that OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria, former president of Colombia, may have recommended to him, during a visit paid on Saturday, 14 October, that he give up his determination to obtain banking information that Duran-Ballen has warned him he cannot use in a penal trial.

Although Solorzano has publicly criticized the government decree making Duran-Ballen the sole custodian of banking information on the discretionary funds allocated to the Vice Presidency of the Republic, regarding which he has found evidence of embezzlement, he has not expressed these criticisms through judicial proceedings. [passage omitted]

Today Carlos Larreategui, minister of the Presidency, said that "for the country's sake," Solorzano should meet, "without any conditions," with Duran-Ballen. The CSJ president has said he has no problem with holding such a meeting, but that he will not meet to negotiate the administration of justice, "because penal trials are not negotiable."

Solorzano has denied the existence of a power struggle, which had prompted Gaviria to make a brief visit to Ecuador, within the framework of "preventive diplomacy" to uphold democracy, it was stated.

What there is, on the one hand, is a judicial order to review information related to a penal trial and, on the other hand, a government decree that in practice prevents the fulfillment of the aforementioned proceeding, for which reason Solorzano demands that the independence of the state branches be respected.

Among those pressuring Solorzano to order the arrest of Duran-Ballen are presidential candidate Abdala Bucaram, who not only accuses the head of state of obstructing the judicial branch's work, but also of being "directly responsible for the current crisis, which has resulted in charges of corruption."

The initiative of a leftist party to promote a parliamentary motion of censure against Duran-Ballen has not made any progress, and the initiative has been rejected by other government opponents who regard it as an extremist measure that might jeopardize the constitutional system at a time when Duran-Ballen only has 10 months remaining of his presidential mandate. [passage omitted]

Indigenous Groups, Unions To Vote 'No' on Reforms

PY1410205995 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2040 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 28 Sep (EFE) — The main social and indigenous organizations, as well as the labor unions, of Ecuador today announced that in the plebiscite scheduled for 26 November, they will vote "no" to all constitutional reforms to be proposed by the government.

Juan Andrango, president of the United Workers Front (FUT), reported to the media that the FUT, which is comprised of most of the country's labor unions, today urged its members to "vote no" to all plebiscite questions, because the plebiscite "is inconvenient, untimely, onerous, crude, and irreponsible."

Andrango said that his position symbolizes, among other things, "a negative answer to the regime's privatization objectives," and a "no to corruption," because "any plebiscite held by a corrupt administration is also corrupt."

In this regard, the FUT today also called for the dismissal of Vice President Alberto Dahik, who has been charged with allegedly misusing government funds. Dahik is now facing a criminal action in court and an impeachment process in Congress.

Ivan Narvaez, representative of the Ecuadoran Social Movements Coordinating Board — which groups the country's main social and indigeneous organizations, as well as the national labor unions — has told EFE that

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this coordinating board had decided to vote "no" to the eleven plebiscite questions.

He added: "We will legitimately vote no" to each one of the questions, because the plebiscite "is legal nonsense" and it "is being conducted in such a way that, instead of making an open process out of it, it is confusing the people and proposing objectives of a strategic and political nature that comply with the government's interests," which "oppose those of our society."

The executive branch will hold a plebiscite on 26 November to decide on whether the president has the authority to dissolve Congress and on the government proposals for the judicial branch reform, for the privatization of the social security system, and for the imposition of restrictions on the public employees' union rights, among other issues.

Narvaez emphasized: "We have found a reason to vote no on each one of the questions." He added that the public employees' "right to organize labor unions is a universal conquest of all workers and employees, and has been established in international agreements."

Regarding privatization of the social security area, Narvaez said that it implies the enforcement of important principles that ensure the general and universal nature of the social security system, as well as the principle of solidarity." This is why "we do not agree with the formula proposed by the government," because it goes against the principle of "a fairer income distribution favoring the most destitute people."

The Ecuadoran Social Movements Coordinating Board was created two months ago, as a result of the organizations' opposition to the privatization program proposed by the government, as well as to the plans to restrict the public employees' labor union rights.

The Ecuadoran Confederation of Indigenous Peoples [Confederacion de Nacionalidades Indigenas de Ecuador — CONAIE], which is a member of the Social Movements Coordinating Board, also announced a campaign in favor of voting "no" in the plebiscite, indigenous leader Jose Maria Cabascango said. He pointed out that the questions to be posed in the plebiscite are difficult to understand.

Unemployment, Underemployment in Andean Countries Noted

PY1510214595 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1905 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 23 Sep (EFE) — Experts from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela said today during a radio program that unemployment and underemployment have become "serious" problems for the nations that comprise the Andean Pact.

Carlos Navarro, secretary general of the Venezuelan Confederation of Workers, said the unemployment and underemployment problem is "extremely serious."

He added: "The internationalization of the economy has generated a radical change in the productive structures which has deeply affected Latin American countries that were not prepared, from the technological viewpoint, to respond effectively to these changes."

In the Latin American Radio Broadcasting Society program that was retransmitted in Ecuador by Radio Quito, Navarro said that one of the "extremely serious" problems resulting from these radical changes is the growth of the "underground (informal) economy," which affects 52 percent of the population.

Pedro Morales Corrales, who has worked as an adviser to Peruvian labor ministers over the last few years, said that in Peru the level of unemployment "has always been 10 percent."

Morales Corrales said unemployment affects 8 million Peruvians, but this problem is about to be resolved. He pointed out that his country has experienced 10 to 15 years of terrorism and one of "the highest" inflation rates "in the world," all of which affected the labor area.

Morales Corrales recommended more imagination in the creation of jobs in his country, because there are several areas that have not been exploited, such as the archaeological wealth, and tourism.

Orlando Obregon, president of the Colombian United Workers Federation, revealed that 58 percent of all Colombians are underemployed.

Obregon added: "The economy has been reorganized and the governments have been modernized, but the main thing still missing is the training and qualification of our human resources" to face these changes.

Eusebio Gironda, Bolivian former labor and labor development minister, asserted that unemployment has become the "principal enemy" of all nations of the world. He said that International Labor Organization studies indicate that one third of the world's economically active population is unemployed.

In Bolivia, he added, official reports indicate that there is a 5.6 percent level of absolute unemployment, although in other areas the level stands at 11 and even 15 percent.

Nevertheless, Gironda said, these figures are alarming because the informal economy has absorbed a large number of unemployed people (in Bolivia, nearly

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800,000 people are engaged in informal economy activities), and nearly 300,000 people depend on coca production.

The Ecuadoran Institute of Statistics and Census has stated that 45.2 percent of the people are underemployed in this Andean country.

Antonio Teron, president of the National Association of Ecuadoran Entrepreneurs, said that to improve the social area and to reduce unemployment and poverty, a profound change in attitudes must be implemented to overcome the paternalistic idea the people have of the government.

Paraguay

Hillary Clinton's Agenda in Asuncion Announced

PY1610191395 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 16 Oct 95 p 28

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will arrive today in our capital. Her visit is part of a program that includes visits to Chile, Nicaragua, and Brazil. In Asuncion, the last stage of her trip, Mrs. Clinton will participate in the Fifth Conference of First Ladies of the Americas, and she will talk about the goals that were established in the Miami Summit.

In her address, she will give special attention to the initiatives on women's rights, health, and education, especially concerning children.

Hillary Clinton's trip comes one month after she acted as honorary president of the U.S. delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

During the Americas Summit, she was hostess of the symposium of first ladies at which the needs of the hemisphere's children were highlighted.

Brazil's first lady, Ruth de Cardoso, on 15 October canceled her trip to Paraguay because she fractured her right arm.

The accident occurred on 14 October in the Alborada Palace, the presidential residence, after Hillary Clinton's visit. On 15 October, Mrs. Cardoso departed for her private residence in Sao Paulo, where she will rest for 15 days.

Senate Approves Appointment of Central Bank President

PY1310185595 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 13 Oct 95 p 13

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Senate constitutionally approved a petition filed on 12 October by the executive branch to appoint Hermes Anibal Gomez Ginard as chairman of the board of directors of the Paraguayan Central Bank. A total of 24 senators voted for Gomez Ginard, 13 voted against, and two abstained.

After a discussion that lasted an hour and a half, the lawmakers gave their approval. There were moments when achieving the required majority, 23 votes, seemed remote. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Cuba's Robaina Views Castro's Visit as 'Most Important'

PY1710005395 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina — who accompanied President Fidel Castro during his state visit to Uruguay — said, before leaving for San Carlos de Bariloche to attend the Fifth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, that the visit the Cuban head of state made to Uruguay was the most important one for Cuban foreign policy over the last 23 years.

Castro 'Most Prominent' Political Leader of Americas

PY1410020595 Montevideo BRECHA in Spanish 6 Oct 95 p 32

[Article by writer Mario Benedetti: "Fidel in our Country"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [German writer] Gunter Grass says that he has recently seen so many well-known leftist leaders swiftly turn their coats and join the Right in an Olympian manner, and that such a change gives him a stiff neck. In Latin America, and particularly in our country, those slips are not so frequent and therefore, collum distortum, viz torticollis, also called in scientific jargon caput obstipum, has been more benign. This notwithstanding, those of us who went to the Montevideo Town Hall Esplanade 36 years ago to listen to a Fidel who was riding with the tide after having been in office for only four months, may perhaps also have a stiff neck after seeing quite a few desertions among those militants whose early enthusiasm melted away and after discovering that they have joined the ranks of the ultraconservative right.

After 36 years, who remembers [former Presidents] Frondizi, [Jorge] Alessandri, [Adolfo] Lopez Mateos, [Belisario] Betancour, [Alberto] Lleras Camargo, Luis Somoza and — last but not least [four preceding words in English] — Eisenhower and other big wigs of that time? On the contrary, Fidel continues to be present

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and coherent. The ill-famed CIA tried on more than 30 occasions to take Castro's life and despite the proven professionalism of the CIA for political assassinations, it was thwarted it its attempt this time. Moreover, neither Eisenhower nor Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, nor Bush were able to get the upper hand over Castro. Now, in 1995, Fidel continues to bring discredit on the arrogance of the U.S. Department of State and the fantasies of the Cuban lobby [preceding word in English] in Miami. At least now, there are people in U.S. President Bill Clinton's inner circle who have started to look at Cuba with greater realism, finally conceding that the changes demanded time and again on the island will not be effected by Mas Canosa and other swanky people living in exile, but rather by Fidel himself, who for all the strings of abuses that are heaped on him every day, continues to be the sole leader who wields enough power (both among friends and foes) to extricate Cuba from the difficult situation confronting it.

There is something which is quite revealing. Whenever Fidel attends an international event, the reception the hosts accord him, are generally — with more or less amiability — in keeping with the basic rules of the passionless protocol. Yet, Castro is always given a warm, enthusiastic, and thankful welcome by the people. The people (sorry to use a word that has fallen into disuse) have always recognized in the Cuban leader his ever-pressing concern about nations' justice, self-determination, sovereignty, and solidarity with other nations. At the closing of the 20th century, when selfishness and meanness (suffice it to mention the cases of Bosnia, Chechnya, Rwanda, Somalia, etc.) represent the most infamous traits of international policy, names like Vado del Yeso, Nancahuazu, Maquela do Sombo, or Ogaden continue to be part of the solidaristic geography of the Cuban Revolution, which has never asked anything in exchange for its sacrifice and protection.

"Fidel has made many mistakes," our reader may interpose. Of course he has — on the economic and politic fronts, but not on the social one; not in the defense and guarantee of his people's health care and education. After all, which leader has not made any mistakes? The only difference is that they are forgiven them whereas that never happens with Castro. At least Fidel's mistakes were not bought off, negotiated, or (like in numerous other cases in Europe and the Americas) been mere chapters of that major corruption, which has become the most important multinational with decisionmaking power at this chaotic turn of the century. Fidel's mistakes — if he made any — were those of a penniless man.

President Sanguinetti may have had some ulterior motives in inviting Castro, such as self-promotion and the aspiration to regional leadership. Nevertheless, even if this purpose was in the head of state's mind, it does not taint a praiseworthy gesture, which entails a good dose of independence. It is moreover illustrative of a tacit acknowledgement, namely that Fidel Castro is nowadays the most prominent political figure of the Americas. Perhaps he is not "democratic" according to the canons of the century-old hypocrisy, but let us remember that such hardly recommendable people like former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, former Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello, the Panamanian quisling [preceding word in English] Guillermo Endara, former Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the coupists Dominican Republic President Joaquin Balaguer and Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori deserved and/or deserve this appellation between quotes. If we scan the European horizon, we find the drunkard and incendiary Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the Christian Democrat and alleged mafioso Giulio Andreotti, who is fond of attending daily mass, just like General Jorge Rafael Videla [former Argentine de facto president]. Even General Augusto Pinochet [Chilean Army commander in chief], high and mighty on his heap of corpses, now intends to become another life member of the Senate in Chile's "democracy."

Fidel's second visit to Uruguay is for those and other reasons, an opportune occasion for our Left (or at least the most lukewarm sector of the Left) not to feel ashamed of its leftism. Fidel's figure continues to be enlightening. Despite his mistakes, stubbornness (for example, when will the death penalty be abolished in Cuba?), blindness, and absentmindedness, I do not find, all throughout the Americas and in this century, a political figure who has put his/her knowledge, experience, vitality, endurance, and his/her entire life at the service of "the have-nots" as Castro has done. To welcome him today following 36 years so pregnant with deeds and words is to also thank him for his ardor, sincerity, and warm-heartedness. I do not rule out the possibility that some day, we, the common run of Latin Americans, will recover our lost innocence and name him once and for all our No. 1 neighbor.

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